New Parks North

An annual progress report on natural and cultural heritage initiatives in Northern Canada.

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Introduction

This annual newsletter provides brief status reports on projects concerning the establishment and development of new parks and conservation initiatives in northern Canada. Aboriginal land claims remain a key factor in the establishment of parks and protected areas.

Approximately 18% of the lands in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region are conserved and managed in a co-operative manner under the *Inuvialuit Final Agreement (1984)* or by agreement with Inuvialuit. The *Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement (1992)* and the *Sahtu Dene and Métis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement (1993)* address natural areas, wildlife and heritage conservation issues.

Government and the Dehcho First Nations signed a Framework Agreement and an Interim Measures Agreement in 2001, marking significant steps in the Dehcho Process toward negotiating a final agreement. The Northwest Territory Métis Nation is currently working with government toward an agreement-in-principal. Land claim and treaty land entitlement considerations for all areas where claims are not settled will strongly influence the timing of conservation proposals in those areas.

Eleven of Yukon's 14 First Nations have Final Agreements and Self-Government Agreements in place. The Council of Yukon First Nations ***(www.cyfn.ca)*** is the central political organization for the First Nation people of the Yukon.

The *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (1993)* provides a process for the establishment of national parks, territorial parks and conservation areas in Nunavut. Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreements must be concluded for all existing territorial parks and for management plans for all existing parks and conservation areas.

Further information on land claim agreements may be found at the Indian and Northern Affairs Canada site at ***www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/al/ldc/ccl/fagr/index-eng.asp***

New Parks North has been organized by claim area or settlement region. These areas are indicated on the front-page map.

Judi Cozzetto, Editor

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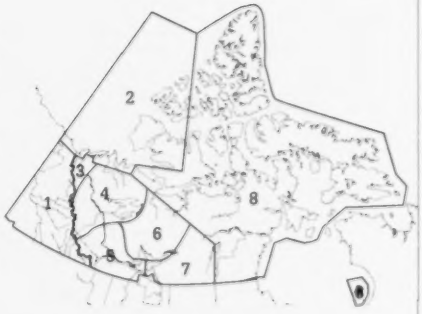

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Aboriginal Land Claims

Editor's Note: The following article was compiled from several government sources and is updated yearly. It is included here to provide a brief introduction to Aboriginal land claims for persons not familiar with them.

A Brief Overview

In Canada, the courts have recognized the common law concept of Aboriginal rights and title. The existing Aboriginal and treaty rights of Aboriginal people have also been recognized and affirmed under section 35 (1) of the *Constitution Act, 1982*.

The evolution and development of the federal government's land claims policy has been closely linked to court decisions. The first claims policy statement in 1973 was initiated by a decision of the Supreme Court of Canada (the 1973 *Calder* decision), which acknowledged the existence of Aboriginal title in Canadian law. The Supreme Court's 1990 *Sparrow* decision clarified that these rights are subject to Constitutional protection, and the Court's decisions in *Delgamuukw* (1997) and *Bernard and Marshall* (2005) have articulated the nature of the property right arising from Aboriginal title.

In order to address uncertainties created by the Court's decisions, the federal government announced its intention in 1973 to negotiate claim settlements. As the policy developed, claims were divided into two types:

- comprehensive claims – based on the concept of continuing Aboriginal rights and title that have not been dealt with by treaty or other legal means; and
- specific claims – arising from alleged non-fulfillment of Indian treaties and other lawful obligations, or the improper administration of lands and other assets under the *Indian Act* or formal agreements.

In recent years, an unnamed third category of claims has developed to deal with Aboriginal grievances that fall within the spirit of the comprehensive and specific claims policies, but do not meet strict acceptance criteria.

Comprehensive Claims

The primary purpose of comprehensive claims settlements is to conclude agreements with Aboriginal groups that will resolve the legal ambiguities associated with the common law concept of Aboriginal rights. The objective is to negotiate modern treaties that provide clear, certain, and long-lasting definition of rights to lands and resources.

Negotiated comprehensive claim settlements provide for certainty for governments and third parties in exchange for a clearly defined package of rights and benefits for the Aboriginal beneficiaries codified in constitutionally protected settlement agreements. Comprehensive claim agreements define a wide range of rights and benefits to be exercised and enjoyed by claimant groups. These may include full ownership of certain lands, guaranteed wildlife harvesting rights, participation in land and resource management throughout the settlement area, financial transfers, resource revenue sharing and economic development measures.

If a national park is established in a settlement area through the claim process, the claimant group continues to exercise its traditional harvesting activities within this protected area. As well, a management board may be established, with representation from the Aboriginal community and government, to advise the Minister on the management of the national park. Finally, the land claim agreement sets out what economic opportunities associated with the national park will be enjoyed by the claimant group. These may include employment provisions and contracting opportunities.

Significant amendments to the federal comprehensive claims policy were announced in December 1986, following an extensive period of consultation with Aboriginal people. Key changes to the policy included the development of alternatives to blanket extinguishment of Aboriginal rights as well as provision for the inclusion in settlement agreements of offshore harvesting rights, resource revenue sharing and Aboriginal participation in environmental decision-making. The 1986 policy also provides for the establishment of interim measures to protect Aboriginal interests during negotiations, and the negotiation of implementation plans to accompany final agreements.

Aboriginal rights in 40% of Canada (primarily Ontario and the Prairies) were addressed through the negotiation of historic (pre-1920s) treaties. Twenty-one modern treaties have been negotiated since 1975 addressing Aboriginal land rights to an additional 40% of the country (mainly in northern Quebec, Labrador and the Territories). Aboriginal claims have not yet been resolved in approximately 20% of Canada, including the Maritimes, most of British Columbia, portions of Quebec, Labrador and Ontario, and parts of the Territories.

Self-government negotiations may take place parallel to, or at the same table as, the comprehensive claims negotiations. The federal government is prepared to consider constitutional protection of certain aspects of self-government where the parties to the agreement concur. Self-government must be negotiated in keeping with the 1995 *Framework for the Implementation of the Inherent Right and the Negotiations of Self-Government* policy.

Specific Claims and Treaty Land Entitlement

Specific claims relate to the fulfillment of treaties and to the federal government's administration of Indian reserve lands, band funds and other assets. The government's primary objective with respect to specific claims

is to discharge its lawful obligations to First Nations.

Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) is a large category of claims that relate primarily to a group of treaties that were signed with First Nations, mainly in the prairie provinces. Not all these First Nations received the full amount of land promised. Claims from First Nations for outstanding entitlements are categorized as TLE claims and are handled separately from other specific claims.

Other Claims

The federal government is reaching or negotiating settlement of a number of other Aboriginal grievances, which have sometimes been referred to as claims of a third kind. These grievances fall within the spirit of the comprehensive and specific claims policies, but do not meet strict acceptance criteria.

Dehcho

After the failure of the *Dene and Métis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement* in 1990, the Dehcho First Nations (DFN) requested the establishment of a Dehcho Territory and their own process to deal with the Crown. The Dehcho Process addresses governance, lands and resources negotiations among federal and territorial governments and the DFN. Negotiations have resulted in a Framework Agreement and an Interim Measures Agreement.

The Framework Agreement sets out the scope, process, topics and parameters for negotiation of an agreement-in-principle and a final agreement. The Interim Measures Agreement provides for participation of the DFN in the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management regime; a regional land use planning process that will facilitate conservation and resource development; an interim management arrangement for Nahanni National Park Reserve of Canada; interim land withdrawals; and an interim resource development agreement.

In February 2010, under the auspices of the Main Table, Parks Canada and DFN established a working group to draft a chapter on National Parks for the Dehcho Process.

Northwest Territory Métis Nation

In 2002, this group, formerly known as the South Slave Métis Tribal Council, changed its name to the Northwest Territory Métis Nation. When the *Dene and Métis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement* failed to be ratified by a majority of the Aboriginal people of the Mackenzie Valley in 1990, the federal government decided to enter into regional claims in this part of the NWT. However, in the South Slave District, the Akaitcho Treaty 8 Dene opted to seek fulfillment of their treaty land entitlements rather than enter into a regional comprehensive land claim. This left some Métis in the area without a vehicle to press for their concerns.

The then Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada offered to enter into a non-rights based process with the Métis of the South Slave District to deal with their concerns. A Framework Agreement was signed in August 1996 that outlines a two-stage negotiation process – land and resources and, after the signing of an agreement-in-principle, negotiation of self-government issues. In 2006 the Main Table reached agreement on 62 key outstanding issues, clearing the way for the drafting and review process for chapters of the agreement-in-principle.

Akaitcho Treaty 8

In 2000, negotiations began between government and the approximately 2,000 Akaitcho Treaty 8 Dene who assert traditional use of lands primarily south and east of Great Slave Lake, and northeasterly as far as the Nunavut boundary. After a break in 2002, negotiations resumed in January 2003, with emphasis on lands and governance issues and are progressing. In November 2007, Canada announced a major interim land withdrawal to temporarily protect 62,000 km^2 of land while negotiations continue, plus another withdrawal of 26,118 km^2 to allow the parties to determine whether to establish a new national park reserve in the area of the East Arm of Great Slave Lake and east and north of there. (Also see article on page 19.)

Yukon

Government of Yukon – Environment Yukon – *Yukon Parks*

Canadian Heritage Rivers

Yukon has four Canadian Heritage Rivers: the Tatshenshini River, the Thirty-Mile section of the Yukon River, the Alsek River and the Bonnet Plume River. Yukon Parks continued to monitor industrial use of the 'Tat' and Thirty-Mile throughout 2009.

Bonnet Plume River

The Peel Watershed Regional Land Use Plan process now underway links to the management regime of the Bonnet Plume watershed. Earlier, a 10-year review of the Bonnet Plume River's management plan recommended that another review take place once the proposed land use plan for the Peel watershed was finalized. Current information about the Peel process is online at ***www.peel.planyukon.ca***.

The Peel Watershed Regional Planning Commission recommended in December 2009 that key watershed lands be protected either under the *Park and Lands Certainty Act* as a Wilderness Preserve or as a Wilderness Management Area under the *Environment Act*. If this recommendation were acted upon, the Bonnet Plume River would receive additional protection.

The Bonnet Plume River was named a Canadian Heritage River in

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Rustic campsite on the Bonnet Plume River near Fairchild Creek.

1998. Yukon Parks prepares annual reports on industrial, commercial and recreational activities within the river corridor and watershed. The river is remote even by Yukon standards. While it has relatively low recreational use, there is significant mineral exploration activity in the area.

Special Management Areas

Yukon First Nation Final Agreements can create Special Management Areas (SMA) to support the preservation of ecological values, conservation, habitat protection, and traditional First Nation use. The Government of Yukon can also establish SMAs through legislation, including the *Parks and Land Certainty Act* (e.g. Territorial Parks) and *Wildlife Act* (e.g. Habitat Protection Areas). The federal, territorial and First Nations governments protect almost 12% of the Yukon's land base – a total of 57,000 km².

Ta'tla Mun Special Management Area

Ta'tla Mun (formerly Tatlmain Lake) is an important food fish lake southeast of Pelly Crossing. It also has a reputation as a high quality fly-in sport fishing lake. The 33.3 km² Ta'tla Mun Special Management Area (SMA) was established through the *Selkirk First Nation Final Agreement*. A five-year review of the SMA Management Plan was completed in 2009.

Ni'iinlii' Njik (Fishing Branch) Protected Area

The Ni'iinlii' Njik (Fishing Branch) Protected Area region is famous for its late fall chum salmon and bear viewing opportunities. The Fishing Branch River and its tributaries are located in the North Ogilvie Mountains, upstream of Old Crow. Although very remote, a commercial bear viewing operation has been established as a joint venture with the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation (VGFN) and a private guide. Between five and ten clients visit the area each season.

Yukon Parks and the VGFN undertook an administrative review of the management plan in 2009 to recognize new research over the last five years and update as needed. No substantive issues were identified. The next formal review will occur during the winter of 2011/12 marking the fifth year of operations for the commercial bear-viewing program.

The Ni'iinlii' Njik Fishing Branch Protected Area is managed as one ecological unit but consists of a parcel of Vuntut Gwitchin Settlement Land (141 km²), an Ecological Reserve (169 km²), a Wilderness Preserve (5,213 km²), and a Habitat Protection Area (978 km²).

Parks

Tombstone Territorial Park

The Tr'ondëk Hwëchin First Nation and the Government of Yukon officially approved the Tombstone Territorial Park Management Plan in 2009. The plan provides certainty and direction for protecting the natural, cultural and recreational values of the park, and provides new employment and economic opportunities for Tr'ondëk citizens. There will be a public review of the plan in 2012 and at least every ten years thereafter.

The new Visitor Interpretive Centre was formally opened in 2009. The $2 million building was designed using the Leading in Energy and Environment Design (LEED) standards to minimize its environmental footprint. Yukon Parks and the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Heritage Department developed the interpretive program, with Holland America Tours providing substantial financial support for the planning and fabrication of displays and exhibits.

The 2,100 km² of Tombstone Park's diverse landscape and spectacular scenery make this a popular destination for hikers and other travelers. The number of visitors to Tombstone increased to 10,000 in 2009, up from 1,500 in 1986.

Tombstone Park is located north of Dawson City along the Dempster Highway, where arctic tundra and boreal forest meet the Pacific Arctic Divide. Backcountry campsites are now available at Grizzly, Divide and Talus lakes. Hikers must use the backcountry permit system that ensures use levels do not exceed the capacity of the area.

Proposed Territorial Parks

First Nation Final Agreements defined the process for establishing the following three proposed territorial parks. The park management plans are at different stages of preparation and each must consider the interests of affected First Nations, natural and heritage resource protection, and

© Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation, 2009

Signing of the Tombstone Territorial Park Management Plan: front row (l-r) Environment Minister Elaine Taylor, Tr'ondëk Hwëchin Chief Eddie Taylor.

existing recreational use. Until a management plan is in place, Yukon Parks will continue to manage each of the park areas in accordance with Final Agreement provisions.

Agay Mene

Located approximately 100 km southeast of Whitehorse, this 697 km^2 area sustains traditional and regular recreational use. The proposed park will offer excellent angling, boating, canoeing and hunting opportunities. It will include Tarfu Lake and a large portion of the Snafu Lake chain some 89 km south of Whitehorse.

The Agay Mene Management Plan Steering Committee will develop a vision statement and guiding principles in 2010. The committee was established in 2008 and is composed of representatives from the Yukon and British Columbia governments, Carcross/Tagish First Nation and Teslin Tlingit Council. The Taku River Tlingit also engages with the committee.

Asi Keyi

Asi Keyi's 3,000 km^2 will incorporate much of the northern portion of the former Kluane Wildlife Sanctuary and lies next to the north side of the Kluane National Park Reserve of Canada near the communities of Beaver Creek and Burwash Landing. *Asi Keyi* is a southern Tutchone term meaning "my grandfather's country".

Until the park is created, the area is protected by a permanent oil, gas and mineral land withdrawal order. A four-person steering committee is to be formed in 2010 to develop and recommend a park management plan to the Government of Yukon, White River First Nation and Kluane First Nation.

The most dramatic feature of Asi Keyi is the Klutlan Glacier. A one-metre thick blanket of volcanic ash from the White River eruption some 1,450 years ago insulates the glacier's terminus. The ash now provides a base for a broad range of vegetation communities, from shrubs to forests, which move with the glaciers.

Asi Keyi also includes the Wolverine Plateau, an unforested area that supports many Beringian plants unique to the region. Most of the Chisana caribou herd's range in Yukon falls within the park boundaries.

Kusawa

The Kusawa Park Steering Committee formally started park management planning in September 2008, releasing a Draft Vision and Guiding Principles document in 2009. A website was created to support

© Brian Johnston, Government of Yukon, June 2008

Bruce Downie conducting park field work at the Big Bend of Klutlan Glacier - Asi Keyi Territorial Park.

public input to the planning process ***www.kusawapark.ca***.

The Kusawa Park Steering Committee has representatives from the Government of Yukon, Carcross/ Tagish First Nation, Kwanlin Dun First Nation, and Champagne and Aishihik First Nations. The parties are expected to deal with park management structures this year, allowing the Steering Committee to continue its planning work.

The 3,000 km² Kusawa park area straddles the interior and coast mountain ranges and includes natural and cultural features of broad interest. The proposed park receives significant recreational use, as it is only 70 km west of Whitehorse, Yukon's capital city. Most of the area is within the Yukon Stikine ecoregion where three biomes merge, resulting in an unusual biodiversity for a rugged mountain setting.

Habitat Protection Areas

Ddhaw Ghro

Ddhaw Ghro is the Northern Tutchone name for the area formerly known as McArthur Wildlife Sanctuary. Grey Hunter Peak dominates the landscape and the surrounding hillsides support a population of Fannin sheep, a unique colour variation of Dall's sheep. Important mineral licks, caribou winter range and other unique features are found in this protected area.

The Selkirk First Nation, First Nation of Na-Cho Nyak Dun and Government of Yukon nominated members to the Steering Committee, who have prepared the management plan. The public reviewed the plan in June 2006 and the Steering Committee released its recommended plan in 2008. Ddhaw Ghro's 1,608 km² will be formally designated a Habitat Protection Area once the three governments involved approve the management plan.

Devil's Elbow / Big Island

The Mayo District Renewable Resources Council (RRC) recommended this 75 km² area be designated a Habitat Protection Area as it provides good habitat for waterfowl, fish and a variety of other wildlife. Traditional and local knowledge also identified these two small areas along the Stewart River as important moose calving areas.

Final approval of the draft management plan is anticipated later this year. Representatives from the RRC, First Nation of Na-Cho Nyak Dun and Government of Yukon make up the working group that developed the 2008 plan.

Horseshoe Slough

The land in this 77 km² Habitat Protection Area (HPA) is an important waterfowl breeding and staging area. The HPA includes Horseshoe Slough – an old oxbow of the Stewart River – and the lower portion of Nogold Creek, which has numerous shallow ponds.

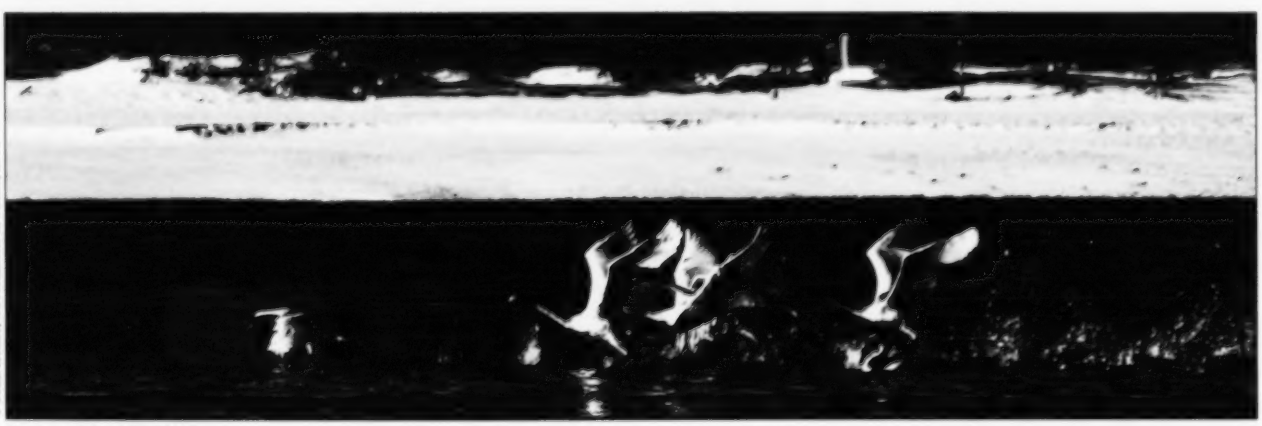
The *First Nation of Na-Cho Nyak Dun Final Agreement* called for this area to be protected. The Government of Yukon designated it an HPA in 2001 and completed a five-year review in late 2007.

Lewes Marsh

Lewes Marsh, near the outlet of Marsh Lake, is an important spring staging area for swans and other waterfowl because it has open water in April and May when most northern lakes are still frozen. The Final Agreements of the Kwanlin Dun First Nation and Carcross/Tagish First Nation called for a management plan for the area. A steering committee may be formed this year to develop a management plan for the 20.3 km² Habitat Protection Area that will meet the objectives set out in the Final Agreements

Lutsaw Wetland

The Lutsaw wetland (formerly known as Von Wilczek Lakes) is used by shorebirds and ducks for staging, nesting and moulting, and can be found near the North Klondike Highway, south of Pelly Crossing. Government formally protected 32.3 km² of the wetland in 2007. A five-year review of the management plan is due in 2011. The *Selkirk First Nation Final Agreement* called for this area's protection.



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Lewes Marsh, Yukon.

Nordenskiold Wetland (Ts'alwnjik Chu)

The Nordenskiold River valley south of Carmacks is a major wetland complex and an important waterfowl staging and nesting area. The *Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation Final Agreement* selected this area as Settlement Land in order to protect it. A draft management plan has been prepared and the 78.5 km² Habitat Protection Area may be formally established this year. The management plan was prepared by a steering committee with members nominated by the Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation and Government of Yukon.

Pickhandle Lakes

The Pickhandle Lakes, located along the Alaska flyway, are an important waterfowl nesting and staging area that also support healthy populations of furbearers and moose. The *Kluane First Nation Final Agreement* called for a Habitat Protection Area (HPA) here. A steering committee of Kluane First Nation, White River First Nation and Government of Yukon members will begin the management planning process for the 51 km² HPA in 2010.

Tagish Narrows

As with Lewes Marsh, Tagish Narrows is an important spring staging area for swans and other waterfowl, with its open water in April and May when most northern lakes are still frozen. The *Carcross/Tagish First Nation Final Agreement* set out management objectives for this area, along with guidelines for developing and approving the management plan for the 4.5 km² Habitat Protection Area. A steering committee has been formed to develop the management plan, with members to be nominated by the First Nation, federal and territorial governments.

Tourism and Heritage – *Cultural Services Branch*

Rampart House

The work at Rampart House Historic Site again focused on the Cadzow House, Store and Warehouse at the east end of the site in 2009. The crew, consisting of four hired by the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation, were assisted by staff from the Historic Sites Unit of the Government of Yukon during the first work shift.

Work on the Cadzow House interior restoration included realignment of stairs, cleaning and sealing the floor, and preparing the walls for re-finishing. At the Store, canvas wall covering was installed and work continued on the restoration of the historic counters and shelving, while new flooring was cleaned and sealed. Restoration work on the Warehouse included replacing all four exterior wall sills, the centre floor beam, floor joists, tenons, 13 infill logs, and the north and south rafters. Work later in the summer included re-erecting the exterior log walls and gables, replacing the floor framing, and installing the structural elements for the roof.

Rampart House Historic Site is co-owned and co-managed by the Vuntut Gwitchin and Yukon governments.

© Donnie Reed of Ocean Photography – courtesy of the National Geographic Society, 2009

Diver Lindsay Thomas inspects the paddle wheel of the A.J. Goddard.

A.J. Goddard

During a research project on Yukon River sternwheelers conducted in June 2008 by the Institute of Nautical Archaeology and the Yukon Transportation Museum, local diver Doug Davidge discovered the sternwheeler *A.J. Goddard* in Lake Laberge.

Dating back to 1898, the *Goddard* was prefabricated in San Francisco, carried in pieces over mountain passes and assembled at Lake Bennett during the Klondike Gold Rush. Used to transport people and goods from Whitehorse to Dawson City, the vessel sank in Lake Laberge in 1901 during a storm. Three crewmembers were lost with the ship.

In June 2009, a detailed photo inventory and survey of the *Goddard* were performed with financial assistance from the Government of Yukon under the Yukon Historic Resources Fund, and National Geographic/Waitt Institute of Discovery. Recording work will continue next summer.

The discovery of the *A.J. Goddard* has received worldwide press and has been declared *National Geographic* News' top archaeology discovery of the year for 2009. A nomination has recently been put forth to designate the *A.J. Goddard* a Yukon Historic Site under the *Historic Resources Act*. ***www.nationalgeographic.com/field/projects/yukon-waitt-project.html.***

© Government of Yukon, 2009

The Commissioner's Residence, one of the buildings opened for "Doors Open Dawson."

"Doors Open Dawson"

The first "Doors Open Dawson" was staged in Dawson City in March 2009 as a joint initiative between the City of Dawson, the Government of Yukon, Parks Canada and the federal Historic Places Initiative. The four-day event was very successful in raising the profile of conservation issues and Dawson City's own heritage activities.

Presentations included World Heritage status from the Canadian Committee of the International Council on Monuments and Sites President; a two-day presentation on the *Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada*; two lectures on the cultural heritage of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in; a Pecha Kucha night featuring the theme "sense of place"; tours of various historic buildings; and a wood siding and windows workshop.

In 2010, "Doors Open" events were held in Whitehorse in February on Yukon Heritage Day and again in Dawson City at the end of March.

Hootalinqua

Staff from the Historic Sites Unit were at Hootalinqua to do some stabilization work, site documentation and recording in 2009.

Situated opposite the mouth of the Teslin River at the northern end of the Thirty Mile section of the Yukon River between Lake Laberge and the Teslin River, Hootalinqua was once a traditional gathering spot for the Southern and Northern Tutchone and the Tlingit. When gold was found in the Teslin River area in the 1870s, a steady stream of prospectors made their way to the region. Hootalinqua became a major supply centre, eventually encompassing a North-West Mounted Police post, telegraph office and shipyards.

In the summer of 2009, the telegraph office roof cladding was replaced and its porch stabilized and repaired. Detailed interior recording of the telegraph office was completed and a preliminary record was created of the capstans and ways at nearby Shipyard Island.
www.yukonheritage.com/Sign/rivers/yukon-river/hootalinqua.html

© Government of Yukon, 2009

The Hootalinqua telegraph office under repair.

Forty Mile

Two large floods affected several structures at Forty Mile Historic Site. The first came with the Fortymile River break up and ice jams at its mouth, forcing water to flow through the townsite upstream in relation to the Yukon River. The Yukon River then broke and an ice jam downstream from the mouth of the Fortymile caused further flooding of the townsite.

A campground kitchen shelter was moved approximately 200 metres and deposited over the Yukon River bank. The Alaska Commercial Company residence, quite possibly one of the oldest standing residences in Yukon dating at least as far back as 1895, was also moved a short distance. The kitchen shelter was destroyed but the materials were salvaged for reconstruction in 2010. The residence was relatively undamaged and has been returned to its original location. Other structures received minor damage but another layer of silt covers lower walls and flooring.

Other than flood reparations, the main project included replacing the foundation and lower rounds of logs for Swanson's Store, a typical one-room log cabin dating to the 1930s.

Through funding from the Northern Strategy Trust Fund an engineering study of the badly deteriorated access road to Fortymile was undertaken, and maintenance and upgrades will be conducted in the summer 2010. The foot trail between the road and the site is in the process of repair and is slated for completion in summer 2010. An application for additional funding to improve access to Forty Mile has been submitted to the federal Community Adjustment Fund and approval is pending. Forty Mile, Fort Constantine and Fort Cudahy Historic Site is co-owned and co-managed by the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and Yukon governments. ***www.trondekheritage.com/our-places/forty-mile***

Fort Selkirk

In its 22nd year, the Fort Selkirk Historic Site co-management project between the Selkirk First Nation and Government of Yukon – Cultural Services Branch saw many improvements made to the site in 2009. These included the completion of work on the Elders' cabin, insulation of the roofs of the crew cabins, repairs to the floating docks that suffered damage in the spring flooding, and fixes to the campground kitchen shelter roof. Two new smoke cabins, used for the traditional harvest of salmon and moose, were constructed from supplies donated by the Selkirk First Nation. A restoration carpenter/instructor was once again on site to supervise major stabilization and restoration work and to provide training to the crew.

The Anglican Schoolhouse received a new foundation, the interior finishing was completed on the RCMP Cabin, and the "Club Room" of the Taylor & Drury Store was dismantled so that its rotten logs could be replaced and it could be re-attached to the main building.

A successful Canada Parks Day was once again held at Fort Selkirk in mid-July. Three boats carried 84 visitors to and from the site. The summer season overall saw visits from 690 people. ***www.virtualmuseum.ca/exhibitions/fortselkirk***

Historic Places Initiative Managers Meeting

The Government of Yukon Historic Sites Unit hosted a Historic Places Initiative (HPI) Managers meeting in Dawson City in June 2009. The three-day meeting involved directors and managers from most provinces and territories, as well as federal representatives from Ottawa. The successful meeting was the last such meeting held outside Ottawa with the HPI coming to an end on March 31, 2010.

Inuvialuit Settlement Region

Government of Canada – Parks Canada

Aulavik National Park of Canada

Located on a sweeping scarp of the Thomsen River's west bank in Aulavik National Park, Head Hill is a well-known Arctic archaeological site. With 43 identifiable rock structures – largely tent rings and caches – and the bones of hundreds of butchered muskoxen, it is a complex of seasonally occupied sites from a time when Innuinait travelled through the area to salvage materials from the depot and wreck of British Royal Navy's vessel, HMS *Investigator*, in the late 19th century.

The site was first reported in 1958 by biologists studying the mammals of Banks Island. Archaeologists excavated the site in 1975, and in 1998 Parks Canada set up a monitoring protocol for the site as canoeists often visit it. At that time 31 bone, metal and stone artefacts were recorded and left *in situ*. In 2008 these artefacts could not be located, prompting Parks Canada to return in July 2009 to locate and possibly collect these artefacts – but with little success. One of the 31 original artefacts, and 17 others of mostly cut and worked bone, were located and collected. Most of the observed caribou antler on the ground surface was cut or worked in some way.

The new artefact locations were recorded using an automatic level and stadia rod. Natural Resources Canada mapped these locations with a base station and differential global positioning system. The collected artefacts will be analysed and detailed mapping of the site has been recommended.

© Parks Canada, 2009

Concentration of male and female muskox skulls at Head Hill Archaeological Site with the Muskox and Thomsen rivers in the background.

Sahtu Settlement Area

Government of Canada – Parks Canada

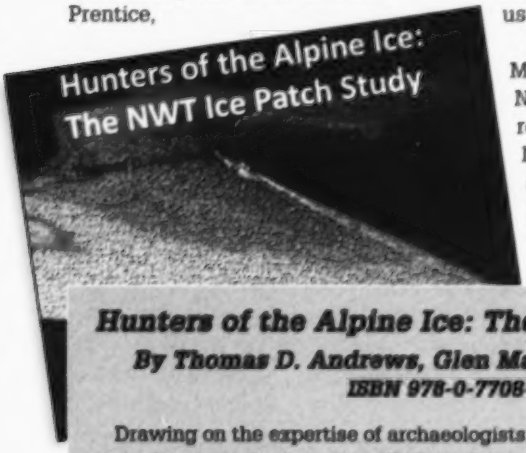
Saoyú-ʔehdacho National Historic Site of Canada

In April 2009, Parks Canada and the community of Déline celebrated the completion of the Saoyú-ʔehdacho Protected Area and Cooperation Management Agreement. The celebration included a community feast, drum dancing, hand-games and fiddling. The Honorable Jim Prentice, Minister of the Environment and Minister Responsible for Parks Canada, attended the celebrations on behalf of the Government of Canada. The Agreement provides for the co-operative management of Saoyú-ʔehdacho National Historic Site (NHS) and will protect the site for the benefit of the people of Great Bear Lake and all Canadians. It recognizes the parties' shared ownership and common interests in the site as Sahtugot'ine continue their traditional uses of the land.

Saoyú-ʔehdacho (Grizzly Bear Mountain and Scented Grass Hills) NHS was designated in 1997 as a result of consultations with the Sahtú Dene and Métis. The site represents an Aboriginal cultural landscape located on two peninsulas of Great Bear Lake, NT, near the community of Déline. Once protected in legislation as provided for in the Agreement, it will be the first NHS of Canada acquired on the basis of consultations with Aboriginal peoples. The signing of the Agreement, and follow up actions now underway to provide permanent protection, will be an important addition to the NWT Protected Area Strategy (also see article on page 16).

A co-operative management board for Saoyú-ʔehdacho NHS has been established, having met three times since May 2009. The board is comprised of six members: three appointed by Parks Canada, two appointed by the Déline Land Corporation and one appointed by the Déline Renewable Resource Council. The Parks Canada Western Arctic Field Unit Superintendent and the Déline Manager will attend and participate in all board meetings.

Parks Canada is now working with its partners to make the NHS operational. This includes staff recruitment, preparing a management plan and developing visitor services, facilities and public education programs.



Hunters of the Alpine Ice: The NWT Ice Patch Study

By Thomas D. Andrews, Glen MacKay and Leon Andrew

ISBN 978-0-7708-0185-4

Drawing on the expertise of archaeologists, Aboriginal Elders, biologists, geologists and educators, the *NWT Ice Patch Study* is a collaborative effort to learn and share knowledge about the human and environmental history of the NWT by investigating permanent ice patches in the Mackenzie Mountains. The pictures presented in this book represent over five years of research carried out in partnership with the Tulita Dene Band and many scientists. The team strived to conduct their work by engaging Aboriginal students in traditional knowledge and cutting edge northern science. The *NWT Ice Patch Study* is an International Polar Year project funded by the Government of Canada.

More than mere lenses of ice, ice patches are frozen repositories of well-preserved archaeological artefacts and biological specimens. As illustrated in the pages of this book, truly exceptional archaeological artefacts are emerging from the ice as these features, which have persisted for nearly 5,000 years, are increasingly under pressure from warming climates. Ice patches are providing exciting opportunities to learn about the pre-contact hunting weapons used by the ancestors of the Shuhtagot'ine (Mountain Dene), and provide a myriad of biological samples to study changes in mountain caribou ecology through time.

The book is designed for high schools students and is intended as an extension of the science camps held through the summers of 2007 and 2008, where students and Elders from Tulita, NWT, partnered with ice patch scientists to share each others' knowledge and experience. The resulting mix brought benefits to all who participated and this book continues this collaborative spirit.

This print-on-demand book can be purchased at ***www.blurb.com/books/1178945***.

Proposed Nááts'ihch'oh National Park Reserve

Parks Canada's interest in protecting the Greater Nahanni Ecosystem has led to an initiative to establish a new national park reserve protecting the upper watershed of the South Nahanni River. While discussions are underway, an interim land withdrawal of 7,600 km^2 has been put in place until March 2012, pursuant to the NWT *Territorial Lands Act*. This prevents staking of new third party interests while decisions are being made about the proposed park reserve.

Parks Canada entered into a contribution agreement with the Tulita District Land Corporation allowing organizations from the Sahtu (Tulita District) to participate in the negotiation of an Impact and Benefit Plan (IBP) for the creation

© Christian Bucher, Parks Canada, 2009

Nááts'ihch'oh / Mount Wilson.

of the national park reserve. Negotiations between Parks Canada and the Working Group, comprised of representatives from the Tulita, Norman Wells and Fort Norman Metis Land Corporations, and the Tulita and Norman Wells Renewable Resources Councils, are proceeding well. The parties anticipate that the IBP could be agreed to in 2010.

Much of the required research has been completed, including a Mineral and Energy Resource Assessment published as Open File 5344 in November 2007. A traditional knowledge study was also completed in 2009 and, providing the park proposal proceeds, an archaeological survey is anticipated for the summer of 2010. During late 2009 and early 2010, Parks Canada and the Tulita District representatives conducted open consultations on the boundary options. Consultations are expected to be completed by the end of April 2010. A boundary recommendation will be presented to the Minister responsible for Parks Canada only once the Tulita District has ratified the IBP and consultations have been concluded.

Following advice from Tulita District Elders, this proposed park reserve would be called Nááts'ihch'oh, so named for a unique geographical feature and landmark overlooking the Moose Ponds at the top of the South Nahanni River. The English name for this feature is Mount Wilson.

© A. Jones, Government of Yukon, 2008

Traversing high country at the Southern end of Kusawa Park. (see article page 5)

Dehcho

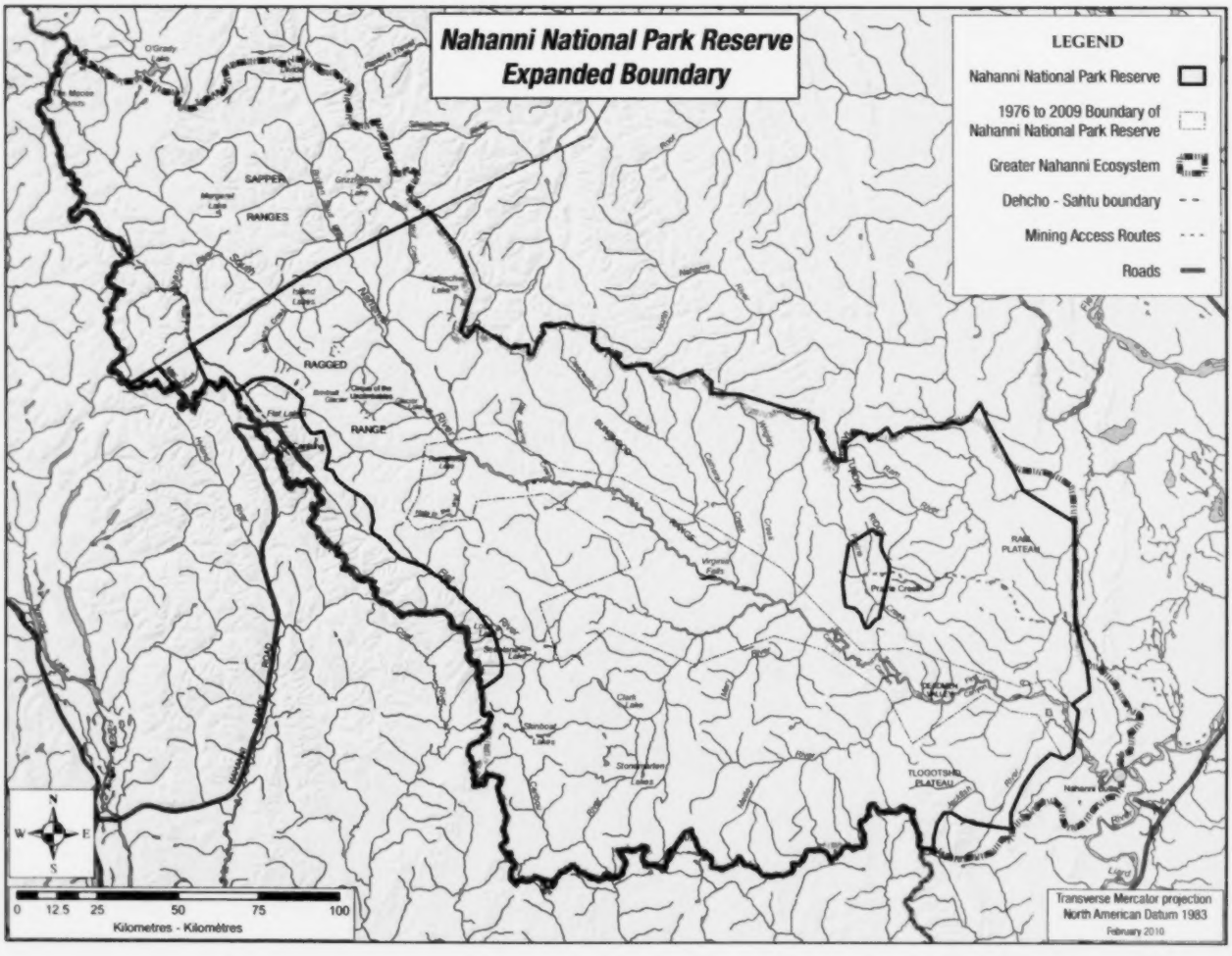
Government of Canada – Parks Canada

Nahanni National Park Reserve of Canada

Following several years of extensive study and consultation, Nahanni National Park Reserve was officially expanded in June 2009. New park boundaries now protect more than 30,000 km² of the Mackenzie Mountains Natural Region. Considerable collaboration and co-operation between Dehcho First Nations and Parks Canada, along with a wide variety of other federal and territorial government departments and stakeholders, helped with this remarkable conservation achievement. Nahanni National Park Reserve is now the third largest national park in Canada and the sixth largest in the world, protecting spectacular mountain landscapes, unique geological landforms and critical wildlife habitat.

Technical rock climbing in the Cirque of the Unclimbables and hiking on the Ra m Plateau will provide new visitor activities. Unique landscapes, such as the globally significant Nahanni North Karst, will provide unparalleled research and monitoring opportunities.

The Nah?a Dehé Consensus Team continues in its role of co-operative management of Nahanni National Park Reserve and, since park expansion, the team has been busy preparing a new Park Management Plan for the expanded park reserve. Fascinating cultural and natural resources situated in the midst of a stunning landscape, including the highest mountains and the largest glaciers in the NWT, make Nahanni National Park Reserve a truly magnificent icon of northern Canadian wilderness.



Initiatives Spanning Two or More Claim Areas

Government of Canada – Parks Canada

Parks Canada in Schools

Parks Canada has launched the Environment Stewardship Certificate Program in the NWT. Based on a program originally developed by Parks Canada's Western Arctic Field Unit, this updated version aligns with the NWT education curriculum and has been distributed to all grade four teachers in the territory.

Parks Canada worked with the Government of the NWT's (GNWT) Department of Education to develop a resource that introduces students to the concept of environmental stewardship and the role of Parks Canada and national parks in Canada's north. It relates to curriculum outcomes in science and social studies – and Dene Kede and Inuuqatigiit, the Aboriginal curriculum of the NWT.

After completion of the Program, students will have a greater appreciation and understanding of Canada's national parks. They will receive a certificate in recognition of their commitment to being a steward of their environment.

In addition to the original writers of the Program, the following people helped to develop and pilot it: Adriana Bacheschi, Pat Dunn, Lynda Hutcheson, Gerry Kisoun, Melinda Gillis and Elise Maltin (Parks Canada), Peter Maguire (Maguire Educational Consulting), Steven Daniel (Department of Education, GNWT), Deb Horen and her class at Mildred Hall School (Yellowknife), and Shirley Baton-Modeste and her class at ʔehtsǫ Ayha School (Déline).

For further information contact:
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Education Specialist, Northern Canada
Parks Canada Agency
Box 1166, Yellowknife, NT X1A 2N8
867-766-8463 / 8466 (fax)
e-mail: elise.maltin@pc.gc.ca
www.pc.gc.ca/education

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Elise Maltin, Education Specialist, Northern Canada, and Steve Daniel, NWT Science Curriculum Consultant, launch the Environmental Stewardship Certificate Program.

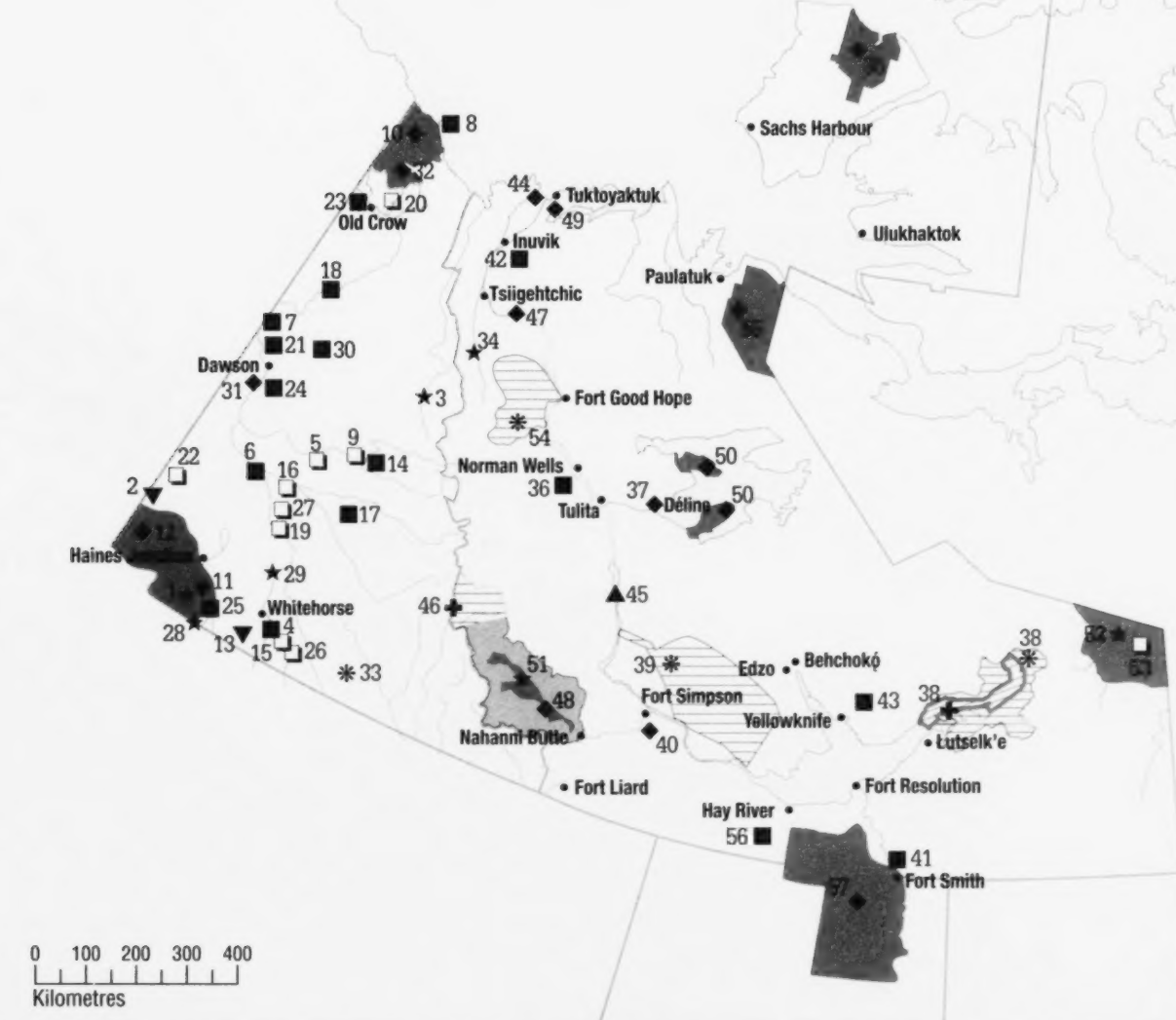
Aboriginal Leadership Development Program

On May 16, 2009, the Aboriginal Leadership Development Program (ALDP) launched into the delivery of its 10th anniversary celebration: Leadership, Culture and Creativity. The celebration, a collaborative initiative with Parks Canada and Yukon College involved one week of workshops, panel discussions, presentations, team building activities, cultural events and much more. Participants from Nunavut, NWT and Yukon, Labrador, Ontario, the prairie provinces and the west coast converged at Yukon College in Whitehorse, YT, united in their commitment to leadership development.

A life force seemed to engulf the ALDP group. It was palpable; everyone felt it and was energized by it. The week continued to build, from the insightful and at times humorous teachings of a drum making workshop, to powerful personal stories of life experience and hope, to the poignant expressions of the theatrical group Llingit Aani, to the voices of participants harmonizing in song under clear blue skies and circling eagles, to the powerful beat of their own drums – 50 drums beating in unison, the collective heartbeat of the ALDP. These events were just a fraction of what transpired that week. At the closing ceremonies, everyone ventured forth with confidence, fulfilled, inspired, stronger, wiser and ready to embrace life – a transformative experience.

For further information on the ALDP, please contact Nicola Pritchett at (867) 667-3973 or by e-mail at *nicola.pritchett@pc.gc.ca*.

Yukon and Northwest Territories



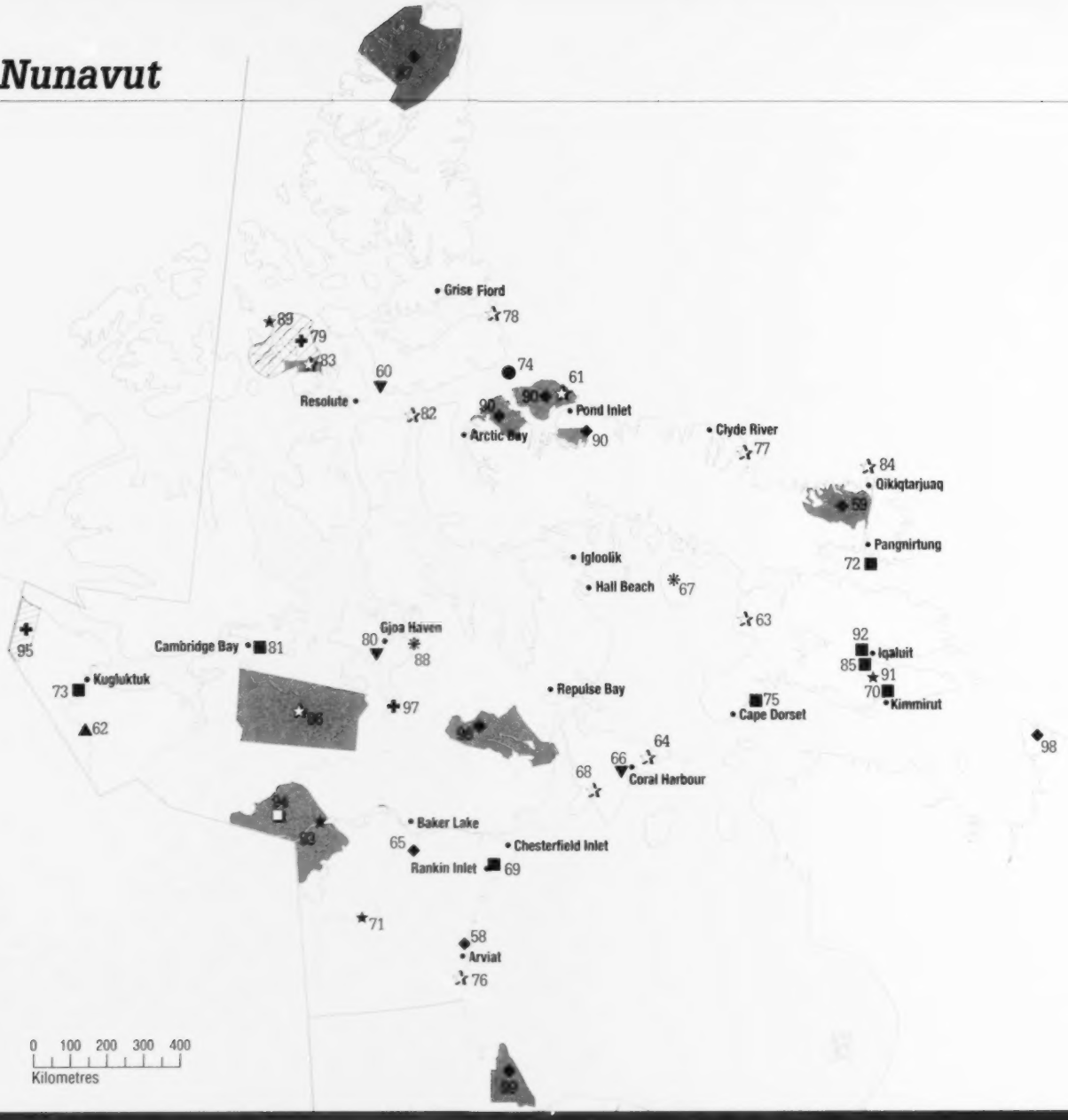
Yukon

1. Alsek
2. Asi Keyi
3. Bonnet Plume
4. Canyon City
5. Ddhaw Ghro Habitat Protection Area
6. Fort Selkirk
7. Forty Mile, Fort Cudahy & Fort Constantine
8. Herschel Island
9. Horseshoe Slough Habitat Protection Area
10. Ivvavik NP
11. Kluane NP
12. Kluane NPR
13. Kusawa Lake
14. Lansing Post
15. Lewes Marsh Habitat Protection Area
16. L'hutsaw Wetlands Habitat Protection Area
17. Mabel McIntyre House
18. Ni'iinlii' Njik - Fishing Branch
19. Nordenskiold River Habitat Protection Area
20. Old Crow Special Management Area
21. Original Telegraph Office, Yukon Sawmill Co. Office (Dawson)
22. Pickhandle Lakes Habitat Protection Area
23. Rampart House
24. Ridge Road Heritage Trail
25. Shäwshe
26. Tagish Narrows Habitat Protection Area
27. Ta'tla Mun Special Management Area
28. Tatshenshini
29. Thirty Mile (Yukon River)
30. Tombstone
31. Tr'ochëk NHS
32. Vuntut NP
33. Wolf Lake

NWT

34. Arctic Red River
35. Aulavik NP
36. Canol Trail/Dodo Canyon
37. Dél̨ı̨ne Fishery & Fort Franklin NHS
38. East Arm of Great Slave Lake
39. Edéhzhíe/Mills Lake
40. Ehdaa NHS
41. Fort Smith Mission
42. Gwich'in
43. Hidden Lake
44. Kitigaryuit NHS
45. Mackenzie River (or portions thereof)
46. Nááts'ihch'oh
47. Nagwichoonjik NHS
48. Nahanni NPR
49. Pingo Canadian Landmark
50. Saoyú - ?ehdacho NHS
51. South Nahanni
52. Thelon
53. Thelon Wildlife Sanctuary
54. Ts'ude niline Tu'eyeta
55. Tuktut Nogait NP
56. Twin Falls Gorge
57. Wood Buffalo NP

Nunavut



Nunavut

58. Arvia'juaq NHS
59. Auyuittuq NP
60. Beechey Island
61. Bylot Island MBS
62. Coppermine River
63. Dewey Soper MBS
64. East Bay MBS
65. Fall Caribou Crossing NHS
66. Fossil Creek Trail
67. Foxe Basin Islands
68. Harry Gibbons MBS
69. Iqalugaarjuup Nunanga
70. Katannilik
71. Kazan River
72. Kekerten
73. Kugluk/Bloody Falls
74. Lancaster Sound NMCA (proposed)
75. Mallikjuaq
76. McConnell River MBS
77. Niginganiq NWA (proposed)
78. Nirjutiqavvik NWA
79. Northern Bathurst Island
80. Northwest Passage Trail
81. Ovayok
82. Prince Leopold MBS
83. Polar Bear Pass NWA
84. Qaqulluit & Akpait NWA (proposed)
85. Qaumnaarviit
86. Queen Maud Gulf MBS
87. Quttinirpaaq NP
88. Rasmussen Lowlands
89. Seymour Island MBS
90. Sirmilik NP
91. Soper River
92. Sylvia Grinnell
93. Thelon River
94. Thelon Wildlife Sanctuary
95. Tuktut Nogait
96. Ukkusiksalik NP
97. Utkuhiksalik

Other

98. Torngat Mountains NPR, NL
99. Wapusk NP, MB

Legend

- ■ Existing Parks, Park Reserves and Sanctuaries
- ▨ Proposed Parks
- ▤ Study Area
- ■ Territorial Parks, Park Reserves and Historic Sites
- ◆ National Parks (NP), Park Reserves (NPR), Landmark, National Historic Sites (NHS)
- ☆ Migratory Bird Sanctuaries (MBS) and National Wildlife Areas (NWA)
- ✱ Areas Under Study
- ✚ National Park and Historic Site Proposals
- ★ Heritage Rivers
- ▼ Territorial Park and Historic Site Proposals
- ▲ Proposed Heritage Rivers
- ❑ Other Conservation Areas
- ● NMCA Proposals

Yukon and Northwest Territories

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Nunavut

Nunavut

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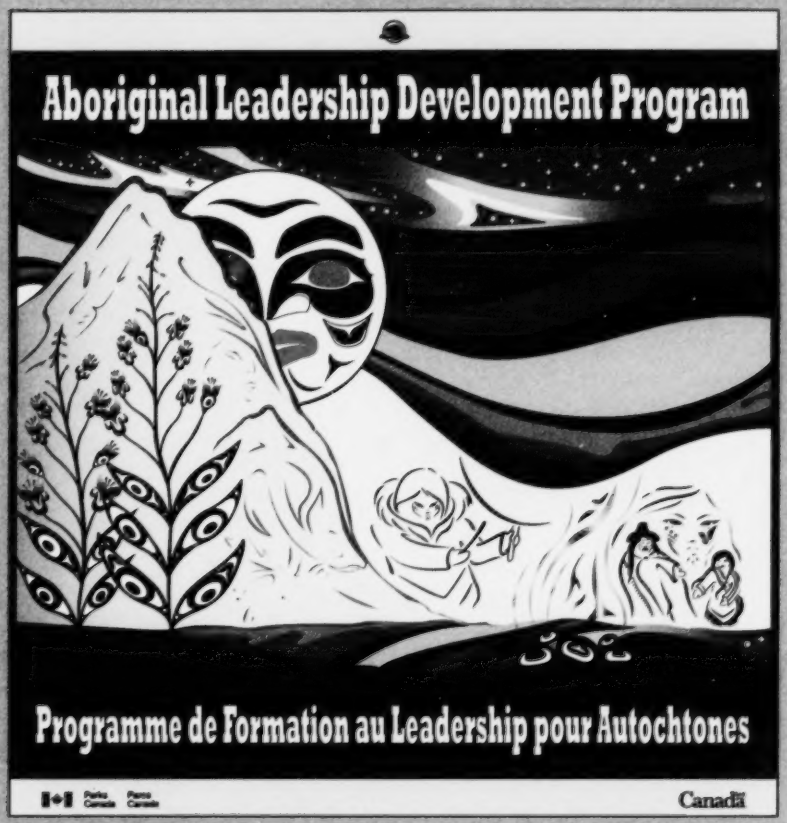

Aboriginal Leadership Development Program
Programme de Formation au Leadership pour Autochtones
Parks Canada Parcs Canada
Canada

Estrella Tides, created by participant Heather Callaghan, embodies the spirit of the 10th anniversary celebration of Parks Canada's Aboriginal Leadership Development Program.

The strength of the Aboriginal Leadership Development Program (ALDP) flows from the participants. Second year participant Leah Huber describes her personal experience of the ALDP.

Dancing Through The Desert

As I gracefully leapt into the beginnings of my first year of ALDP, I landed on one foot, feeling unbalanced, shaky and uncomfortable. This was a new dance floor for me, an unfamiliar territory, and I had no idea how challenging the new steps and combinations would be. My first week in Year 1 had me suddenly stretching to new heights, tiptoeing down new paths and learning to understand the movements of my new dance partners.

I am very honoured to be part of such an inspirational leadership program. In my first year I learned how to look within myself and discover what my goals and dreams are. I learned how to re-surface old dreams as well develop new ones. The courses and activities we participated in have supported my mental, physical, spiritual and professional development. After completing my first year one word comes to my mind, and that word is "connection". I left feeling connected to everything – to life, my goals, my dreams, my culture, my future in this organisation, and most importantly, to this land, our mother earth. I learned that in order for me to grow and be a leader I need to stay connected to what is important to me; my values and my dreams.

By the end of Year 1 both of my pretty little feet were solid on the ground, balancing my entire body, mind and spirit. As I embark into Year II of my ALDP journey, I am excited to move with purpose, reach for new heights, glide freely down new paths and share everything I have learned with my dance partners.

NWT Protected Areas Strategy

Overview

The NWT Protected Areas Strategy (PAS) is a community-guided planning process that protects culturally and ecologically important areas in the NWT. It recognizes the need to balance conservation and economic development, while respecting Aboriginal rights and third party interests.

Developed by regional Aboriginal organizations, the federal and territorial governments, environmental non-government organizations and industry, the Strategy was signed in 1999. Representatives from these organizations oversee the planning process through their participation on the NWT PAS Steering Committee.

The goals of the PAS are to protect special natural and cultural areas and "core representative areas" in each NWT ecoregion (relatively large areas defined by similar climate, vegetation, geology and other ecological patterns). Representative areas have no industrial development – thus are "core" to a network of protected areas – and include examples of the entire diversity of life forms and their habitats – thus being "representative" of the NWT's 42 ecoregions.

Protection Highlights

In April 2009, Parks Canada and the community of Déline celebrated the establishment of the Saoyú-?ehdacho Protected Area and the signing of the Cooperation Management Agreement. This is the first area protected under the NWT Protected Areas Strategy. The Saoyú-?ehdacho Co-operative Management Board met three times in 2009 (May, August and October). For more on this area, also see page 10.

Candidate Protected Areas

Once an agency agrees to use its legislation to sponsor the advancement of an area through the Protected Areas Strategy (PAS) process, the "Area of Interest" becomes a "Candidate Protected Area." The PAS now has five candidate-protected areas, all sponsored by Environment Canada's Canadian Wildlife Service.

Environment Canada – Canadian Wildlife Service

Environment Canada (EC) establishes and manages National Wildlife Areas (NWA) to protect wildlife and wildlife habitat for the purposes of conservation, research and/or interpretation/education. The Wildlife Area Regulations under the *Canada Wildlife Act* allow the Minister of the Environment to recommend that the Governor-in-Council establish NWAs. In 2008, EC committed to establishing six such areas in the NWT by 2013. As of December 2009 five candidate NWAs have been sponsored through the Protected Areas Strategy process. EC is assessing other candidates for the sixth possible NWA.

Edéhzhíe

Edéhzhíe was the first candidate National Wildlife Area (NWA) in the NWT. It includes the Horn Plateau, Mills Lake and Willowlake River, and provides important habitat for boreal woodland caribou, wood bison, migratory waterfowl and waterbirds. The Edéhzhíe Working Group has completed their final Recommendations Report. Key recommendations include a reduction of the boundary to 14,250 km^2 (57% of the original 25,230 km^2 candidate area) and that a co-management agreement be established based on the partner communities' and Environment Canada's (EC) Canadian Wildlife Service's shared vision for the Edéhzhíe NWA. The next step is for the Dehcho First Nations, with support from the Tłı̨chǫ government, to formally request that EC establish the area. An interim land withdrawal is in effect until October 2010; a request has been made to extend the withdrawal to October 2012.

Ts'ude niline Tu'eyeta

Ts'ude niline Tu'eyeta includes the Ramparts River drainage and extensive low-lying wetlands near the community of Fort Good Hope. It includes high quality habitat for boreal woodland caribou, supports significant populations of waterfowl and waterbirds, includes habitat for Dall's sheep and grizzly bear, and is important to the subsistence economy of the community of Fort Good Hope. Mineral assessment fieldwork, which is a key component of the Protected Areas Strategy, was completed for the mountain portion in 2007 and the wetland mineral fieldwork was conducted in 2008. Mineral assessment results should be available in the spring of 2010. An interim land withdrawal is in effect until October 2011.

Sambaa K'e

Sambaa K'e Candidate Protected Area includes much of the Trout Lake watershed, which supports and maintains the traditional lifestyle and culture of the Sambaa K'e people. It contains significant numbers of boreal woodland caribou. Mineral assessment fieldwork was completed in 2008 and results should be available in early 2010. Ecological fieldwork continued through the winter of 2009/10. Most of this area has interim protection until October 2010 via an interim withdrawal under the Dehcho First Nations Interim Measures Agreement.

Ka'a'gee Tu

This area is situated in the south-eastern corner of the Dehcho region and includes a large portion of the Kakisa River watershed and Beaver Lake. It is the traditional territory of the Ka'a'gee Tu First Nation (KTFN), along with the K'atl'odeeche and Deh Gah Got'ie Koe First Nations. Moose, beaver, fish and large numbers of waterfowl are found throughout the area. A number of species at risk, such as woodland caribou and rusty blackbirds, along with some rare plant species, are also found within Ka'a'gee Tu.

In August 2009 Environment Canada accepted KTFN's proposal for sponsorship of the area of interest as a National Wildlife Area. A candidate area Working Group is now being set up. Mineral assessment fieldwork was completed in 2009 and some ecological fieldwork was undertaken. About 80% of the candidate area is covered by an interim withdrawal under the Dehcho First Nations Interim Measures Agreement until October 2010.

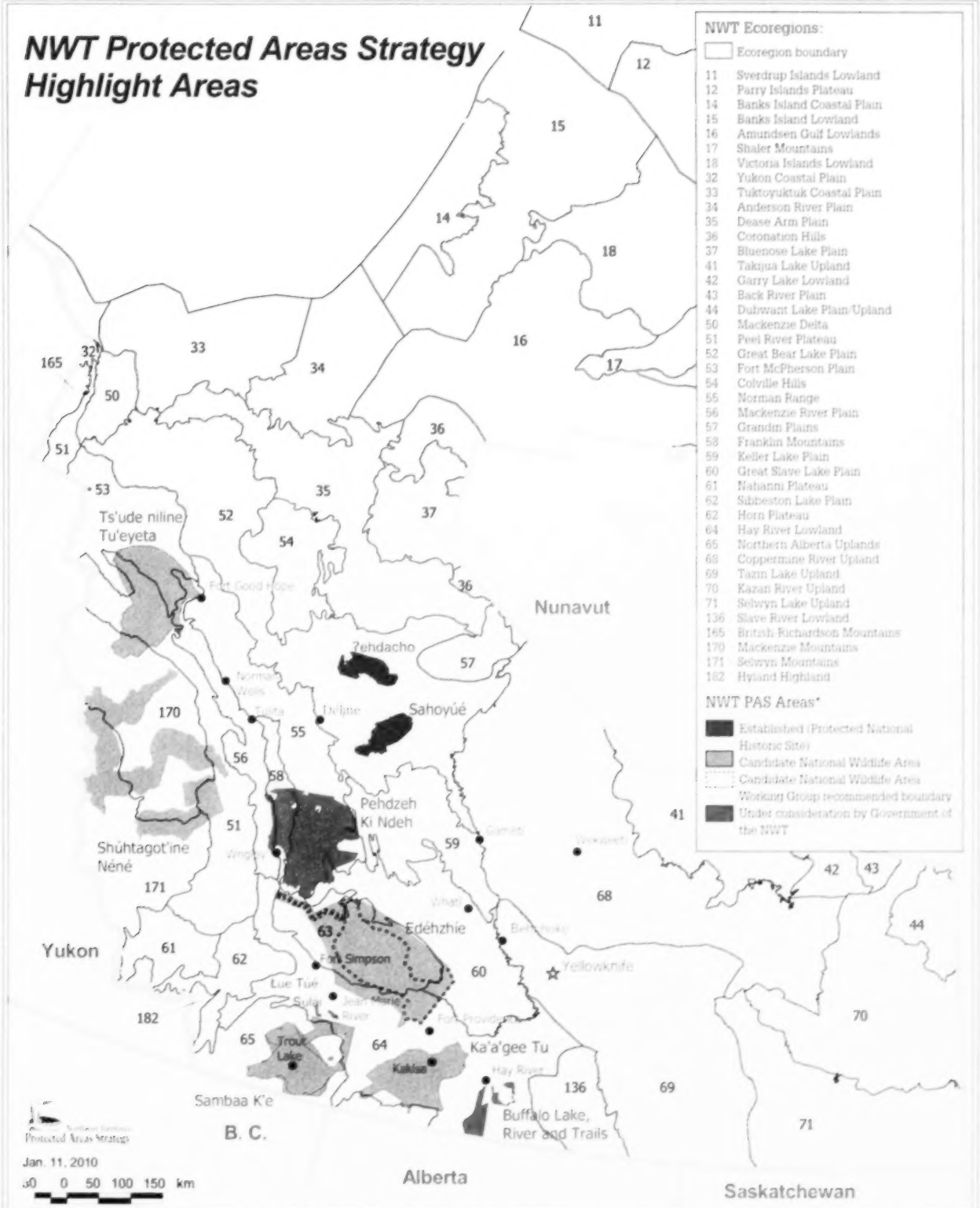
Shúhtagot'ine Néné

The Keele, Redstone, Raven's Throat and Mountain River corridors and headwaters make up the bulk of this candidate National Wildlife Area (NWA). The area is the traditional territory of the Shúhtagot'ine (Mountain Dene) with their traditional trails running throughout the area. Shúhtagot'ine travel the rivers in the summer to hunt moose and make mooseskin boats, and return to the mountains in the fall. The diversity of the landscapes, ecosystems and species found in Shúhtagot'ine Néné is representative of a pristine wilderness. There are significant numbers of woodland caribou, Dall's sheep, moose, grizzly bear, wolves and wolverines. A large portion the area remained free from ice during the last ice age and boasts unique plant species.

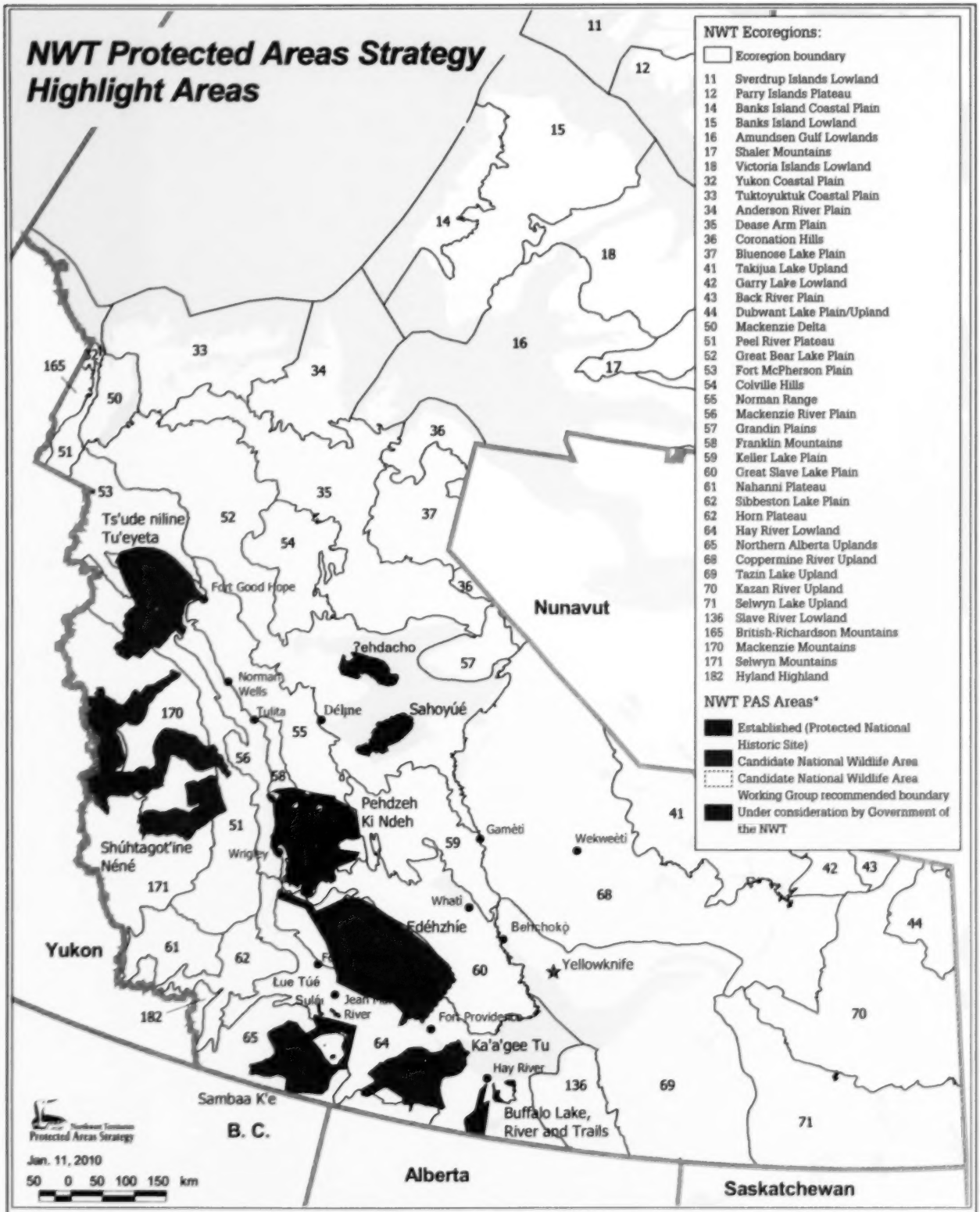
In August 2009, Environment Canada accepted the Tulita District Land Corporation's proposal for sponsorship of the area of interest as a NWA. Ecological fieldwork was undertaken and the first summer of mineral assessment fieldwork was completed in 2009. A candidate area working group is being set up.

Areas of Interest

Areas of interest have significant natural and/or cultural values and have support for formal protection from communities and/or regional organizations. The Government of the NWT (GNWT) is currently reviewing three sponsorship applications. The Pehdzeh Ki First Nation applied in January 2009 for sponsorship of the Pehdzeh Ki Ndeh area of interest as a Cultural Conservation Area (under the *Territorial Parks Act*). The K'atl'odeeche First Nation applied in April 2009 for the Buffalo Lake, River, and Trails area of interest as a Critical Wildlife Area (under the NWT *Wildlife Act*). The Jean Marie First Nation applied in November 2009 for sponsorship of the Łue Túé Sûlái area of interest as a Cultural Conservation Area (under the *Territorial Parks Act*). Communities have identified approximately 13 other areas of interest but they have not yet reached the step of requesting a



* This map does not show all of the approximately 20 areas that are currently at various stages in the NWT PAS process. Please see www.nwtpas.ca for more comprehensive maps.



* This map does not show all of the approximately 20 areas that are currently at various stages in the NWT PAS process. Please see www.nwtpas.ca for more comprehensive maps.

sponsoring agency. The GNWT is planning to assess up to six areas for territorial establishment in the next few years.

Conservation Science Highlights

The NWT Protected Areas Strategy (PAS) developed an ecological representation method to identify options for core representative areas in the NWT. The method is based principally on a terrestrial coarse-filter analysis, assessing relatively large-scale data such as soils, elevation, climate and vegetation. This year, special features (smaller scale, unique, rare or sensitive features) were compiled and brought into the coarse-filter analyses. To date, rare and "may-be at risk" plants, hot and warm springs, mineral licks, eskers, glacial refugia, and amphibian and reptile sightings have been mapped ***(www.nwtpas.ca)***. An NWT karst report and map, and freshwater special features compilation work is underway. A freshwater coarse-filter classification was developed that characterizes the different watersheds in the Mackenzie River basin and several watersheds in the adjacent Queen Elizabeth drainage basin covering much, but not all, of the NWT. The data used were catchment size (areas draining only the land surrounding one length of a creek or small stream), glacial coverage, permafrost type, soils, sources of water (groundwater or surface), amount of lakes and amount of eskers. The freshwater classification serves as the basis for coarse-filter representation analysis and can be used to analyse the representation of a full range of freshwater habitats in protected areas.

The results of the ecological representation analyses are provided to communities, land use planning boards / agencies and protected area working groups. This information can be used together with traditional knowledge, other ecological, social and economic information to make decisions about which areas to propose for protection and/or make decisions about final boundary options. The analyses are also used to assess how well the protected area network achieves ecological representation. The PAS is continuing to refine the ecological representation analysis to make it as useful as possible to the groups involved in land management.

Government of NWT – Industry, Tourism and Investment – *Tourism and Parks*

NWT Parks: Looking Forward

Cultural interpretation programs, the introduction of a new Parks survey, and some assistance from the federal government, all contributed to making 2009 a success for NWT Parks, leading to a good outlook for 2010.

- Despite the weather and economy, approximately 8,422 permits were sold in 2009 equalling 24,474 total visits.
- A new fee structure was introduced in 2009 based on extensive consultation the year before. Fees are: $15.00 for a walk-in tent site, $22.50 for a non-electrical site and $28.00/$32.00 for an electrical site. No fee increase is anticipated for 2010.
- Between 2007 and 2009, Parks saw a 71% increase in people using the on-line reservation system (up from 1,938 in 2007 to 3,323 in 2009). Campers like the functionality of the system and the fact that the cost of a reservation is built into the price of a site. The number is expected to rise as the system becomes more widely marketed and people become more experienced with it.
- A camper survey was introduced during the 2009-operating season with 172 people responding. The survey provides management insight into activities that will improve the visitor experience.

A number of capital projects began or were completed in 2009/10 that included: recreation facilities at Jàk Territorial Park; sign design and installation for the proposed Doi T'oh Territorial Park and CANOL Heritage Trail; playground equipment in Prelude Lake Territorial Park; a gorge viewpoint and walking trails at Sambaa Deh Territorial Park; and replacement of the 60th Parallel Visitor Centre.

Several other projects were undertaken this year, jointly funded with the federal government's Economic Action Plan. Improvements to a reception building and staff residence at Nitainlaii Territorial Park were undertaken; a walking trail was constructed from Twin Falls Territorial Park to Enterprise; the picnic shelter at North Arm Territorial Park was replaced; improvements at Fred Henne Territorial Park and upgrades at the Yellowknife River Territorial Park were undertaken; and further trail development and wayside park improvements were carried out in the North Slave Region.

Further information on NWT Parks can be found at ***www.iti.gov.nt.ca/tourismparks/generalparkservices.shtml***

North Slave

Government of Canada – Parks Canada

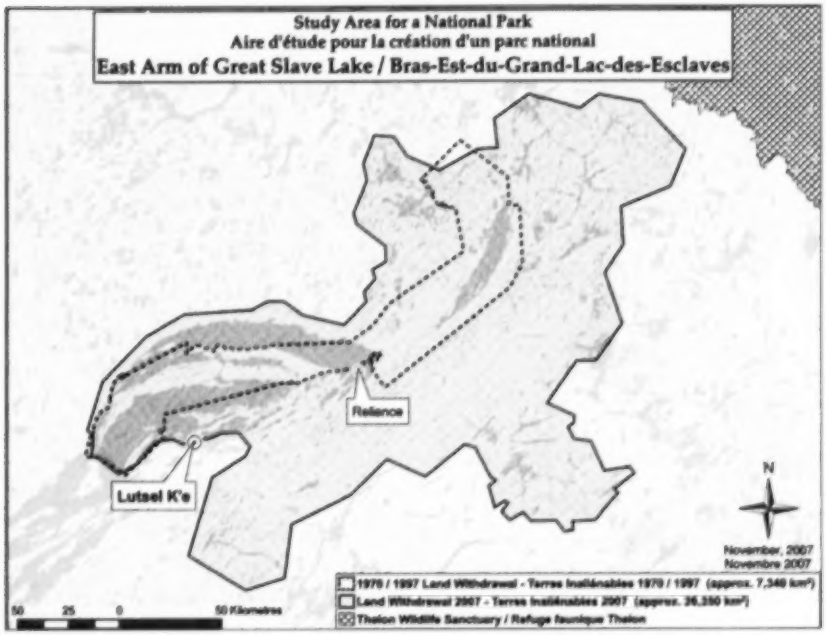
East Arm of Great Slave Lake

Parks Canada continues to work closely with the Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation and the Northwest Territory Métis Nation toward the establishment of a national park reserve in the East Arm of Great Slave Lake area of the NWT.

Parks Canada will also be consulting other Aboriginal groups who may have interests in the area. Aboriginal groups have a significant influence on whether a national park reserve is established and, if so, under what conditions and what configuration.

The current study area is approximately 33,690 km^2 and consists of two land withdrawals. The 1970 land withdrawal (7,340 km^2) has no expiration date while a five-year interim land withdrawal was put in place in 2007 (26,350 km^2).

The Mineral and Energy Resource Assessment and a Landscape Values (socio-economic) study will be completed in 2010. With the completion of these two studies, the parties can begin to look at boundary options and seek input from business interests, private landholders and the public. Information sessions, an information website and bulletins will be made available in 2010.


Study Area for a National Park
Aire d'étude pour la création d'un parc national
East Arm of Great Slave Lake / Bras-Est-du-Grand-Lac-des-Esclaves
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Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation

Building Capacity for the Stewardship of Thaidene Nene

The Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation (LKDFN) is making significant progress toward protecting Thaidene Nene, the "Land of the Ancestors", that forms the core of its traditional territory. In 2006, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed with the federal Environment Minister, creating a partnership to investigate the feasibility of establishing a new protected area in Thaidene Nene (around the East Arm of Great Slave Lake). In 2007, Parks Canada's area of interest for a potential national park reserve (approximately 33,000 km²) was fully withdrawn from disposition for a period of five years. LKDFN and Parks Canada are working to complete a Mineral and Energy Resource Assessment and have initiated a socio-economic study. Completion of the necessary feasibility studies will inform the negotiation of a protected area establishment agreement. It is expected that these formal negotiations will commence in 2010 as a side table to the broader land, resource and governance discussions taking place under the auspices of the Akaitcho Process.

For the LKDFN, conservation of Thaidene Nene means preserving the integrity of a homeland fundamental to a cultural identity. Thaidene Nene is where the ancestors of the LKDFN laid down the spiritual, ethical and practical foundations of the Dene way of life. Carrying these traditions into the future, the LKDFN has the right and the responsibility to promote its culture, practise its relationship with the land, and protect the territory upon which this culture and relationship depend. Consequently, a key element of park operation will be the meaningful involvement of the LKDFN as stewards of the land and hosts to visitors.

As the stewards and hosts of Thaidene Nene, the LKDFN has commenced the implementation of the *Ni hat'ni Dene (Watchers of the Land) Program*. This program has the following broad mandate:

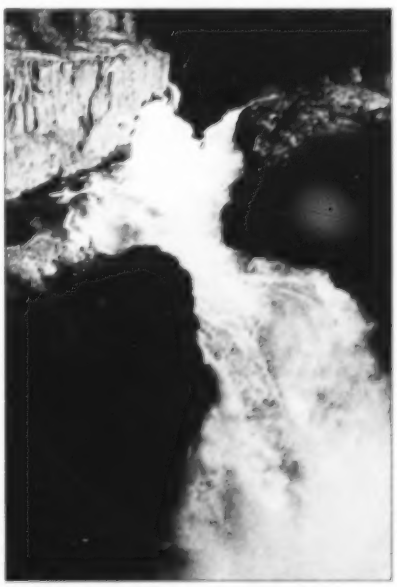
- maintain the integrity of cultural sites and the natural beauty in the area;
- host and provide interpretive tours for visitors in the area;
- monitor and document visitor activity, cultural artefacts, and environmental / wildlife values; and
- transmit cultural knowledge to younger generations.

During the summer of 2009, the LKDFN initiated the first year of the *Ni hat'ni Dene Program*. This was a pilot project, designed as a test case to allow the LKDFN to build capacity, learn while doing, and work out the "kinks" of this program.

The pilot project took place at Kache (Reliance), near the mouth of the Desnedhe Che (Lockhart River) in the extreme east of the East Arm of Great Slave Lake. On one side of the river is an abandoned village where many LKDFN Elders grew up. On the other side are a graveyard and a gathering site where LKDFN members hold the annual spiritual pilgrimage up-river to "Old Lady of the Falls", the primary sacred site of the Lutsel K'e Dene. The area is phenomenally beautiful, close to many sites of cultural significance and attractive to tourists who use the area frequently during the summer months.

A small, modern cabin was established in the region. Ni hat'ni Dene, comprised of two adults and two youth, were stationed at the cabin in two-week shifts. They were responsible for greeting, welcoming and hosting visitors to the Kache area, providing interpretive tours of the village site, and administering angling and tourism surveys. The Ni hat'ni Dene were also responsible for completing surveys on fish and wildlife abundance and distribution. The lessons learned and products developed (e.g. Ni hat'ni Dene Resource Manual) during the inaugural season of the *Ni hat'ni Dene Program* will ensure the improvement of future program delivery.

In addition to the *Ni hat'ni Dene Program*, the LKDFN is leading other capacity building initiatives in anticipation of Thaidene Nene protected



© David Murray, Parks Canada, 2006

"Old Lady of the Falls" – Parry Falls, Lockhart River, Great Slave Lake.

area establishment. In particular, the First Nation has developed a meaningful partnership with the School of Outdoor Recreation, Tourism, and Parks at Lakehead University. This partnership involves Lakehead students spending time in Lutsel K'e completing practical research projects. Some areas of focus have been investigating the potential socio-economic benefits of protected area establishment, the development of a community tourism pamphlet and the assessment of white-water rafting tourism potential. This partnership has proven to be mutually beneficial to both the community and Lakehead University.

The LKDFN is also active in documenting the heritage resources within Thaidene Nene. Keenly aware that the knowledge of Elders will not be around forever, the First Nation is committed to conducting an archaeological and traditional knowledge assessment of an ancestral site within Thaidene Nene each summer. These assessments involve Elders and archaeologists from the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre working together to document the features and oral histories of important heritage areas within Thaidene Nene. To date, assessments have been completed for the villages at Kache, Kaldele (Talthelei Narrows), and Thai Chela Kue. Priority areas for future assessments include Edacho Tue (Artillery Lake at Timber Bay), K'ai Hoka Tue (Mclean Bay), Lu Cho Tue (Whitefish Lake), and T'su Choghka T'lazi (Basile Bay).

The LKDFN takes its responsibility for the stewardship of Thaidene Nene very seriously – it is the heritage of the ancestors and the legacy of the youth. Building the community capacity to effectively bear the mantle of this stewardship is the challenge before the LKDFN at this time. Legally establishing a protected area in Thaidene Nene with a negotiated agreement is but a small part of protecting the land – much more important is insuring that the Dene stewards of the land can continue to watch over this land as they have for generations.

Nunavut

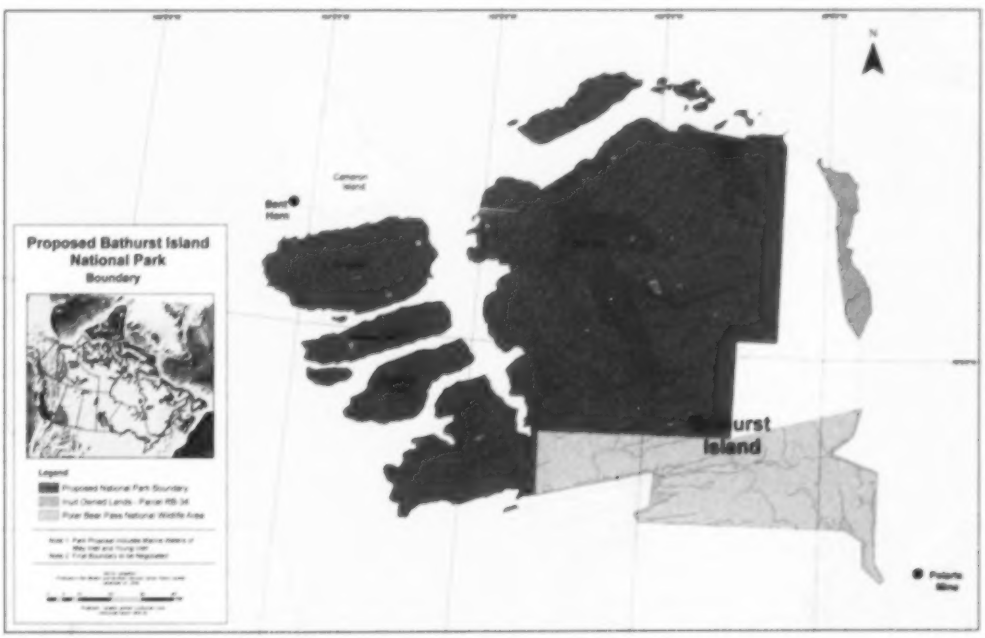
Government of Canada – Parks Canada

Northern Bathurst Island

In April 2009, Parks Canada and the Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA) resumed discussions on the potential establishment of a national park on northern Bathurst Island. In July 2009, with the support of the Resolute Bay Community Lands and Resources Committee (CLARC) and the QIA, the federal government renewed the interim land withdrawal for the area until October 2014. The land withdrawal includes five of the Governor General Islands and the lands north of Polar Bear Pass National Wildlife Area, with the exception of a parcel of Inuit Owned Lands located along the eastern shore of Bathurst Island.

In December 2009, Parks Canada and the QIA held a meeting in Iqaluit with Resolute Bay's CLARC and Hunters & Trappers Association (HTA). The purpose of the meeting was to re-introduce the park proposal to the residents of Resolute Bay, report on the results of the Mineral & Energy Resources Assessment, introduce the proposed park boundaries and address any concerns community residents might have. The CLARC and HTA representatives are now considering the park and its proposed boundaries, and are consulting with community residents and Elders.

Parks Canada and the QIA also agreed to proceed to Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement negotiations for the proposed national park. Parks Canada



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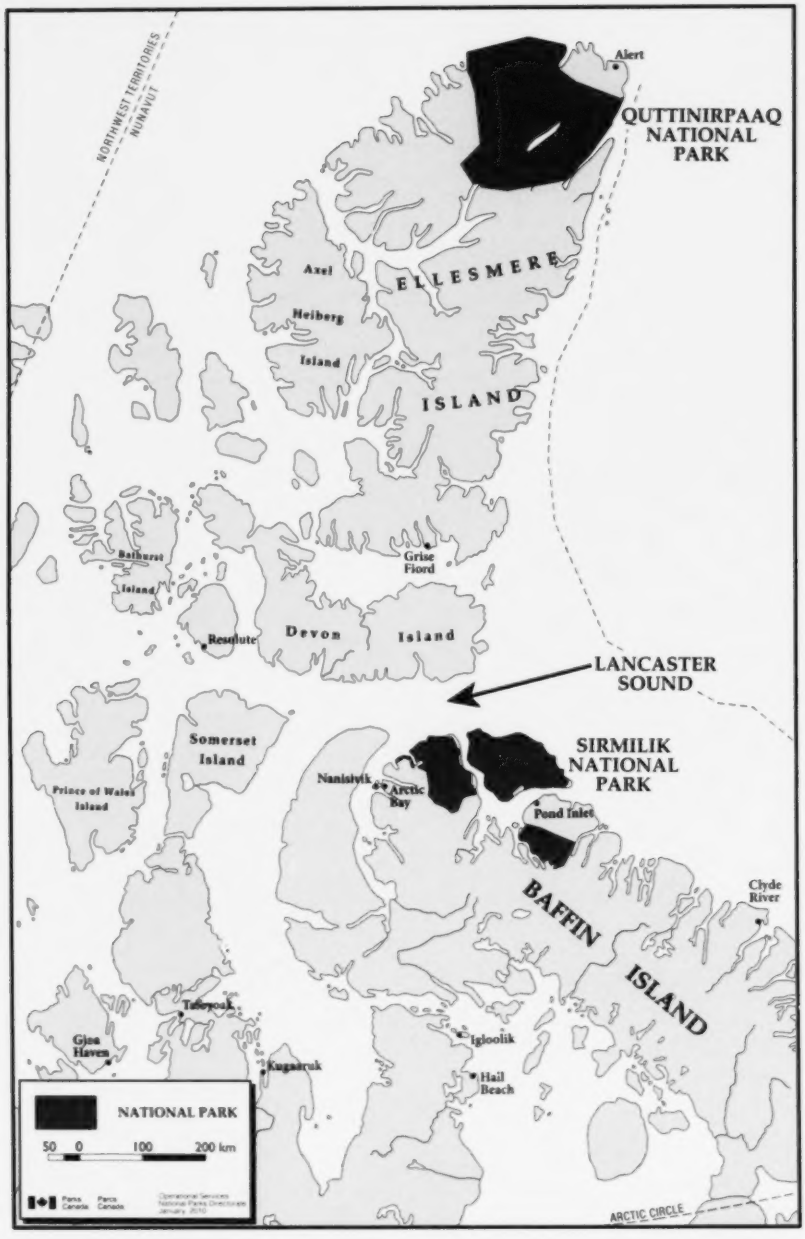


entered into a funding agreement with the QIA that will provide this land claim organization with the capacity to negotiate lasting benefits for Inuit of the Qikiqtaaluk (north Baffin) region.

Lancaster Sound – Proposed National Marine Conservation Area

In December 2009, Canada's Environment Minister and Minister responsible for Parks Canada, the federal Minister of Health, the Acting President of the Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA) and the Minister of Environment for the Government of Nunavut (GN) announced the beginning of a feasibility study for the proposed establishment of a national marine conservation area (NMCA) in Lancaster Sound.

Lancaster Sound is the eastern entrance to the Northwest Passage, the legendary corridor through Canada's Arctic archipelago. It is an area of critical ecological importance to marine mammals, including seals, narwhal, beluga and bowhead whales, as well as walrus and polar bears. It is bordered by some of the largest Arctic seabird breeding colonies whose populations total in the hundreds of thousands.

Parks Canada will lead the feasibility study in close collaboration with the GN, QIA, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. and local communities, along with other federal departments.The feasibility study will determine whether the establishment of a marine conservation area under the *Canada National Marine Conservation Areas Act* is a practical approach to the protection and ecologically sustainable use of this region.

The feasibility study will gather further information on the area's natural and cultural resources, and study the potential economic and tourism impacts and benefits of an NMCA. Extensive local consultations will be undertaken. The study is expected to take two to three years, concluding with recommendations on whether to establish the proposed NMCA and under what conditions. If the parties agree that an NMCA should be established, an Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement will have to be negotiated as the next step.

Inuit Heritage Trust Inc.

The Inuit Heritage Trust Inc. (IHT) is dedicated to the preservation, enrichment and protection of Inuit cultural heritage and identity, and deals with issues of archaeology, ethnographic objects and archives. IHT activities are based on the principle of respect for traditional knowledge and the wisdom of Elders. Established in 1993, IHT receives its mandate from Articles 33 and 34 of the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*.

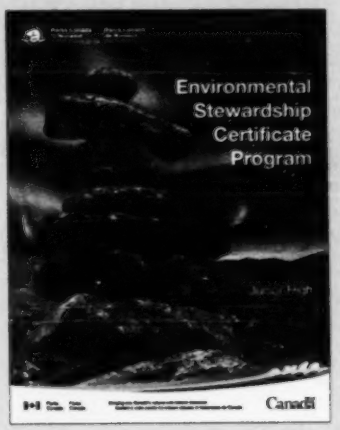
Heritage Sector Training Plan

Heritage Sector Training Plan (HSTP) offers heritage workers from Nunavut the opportunity to increase their knowledge about heritage facility and collections management, (material) culture interpretation, preservation and promotion, and heritage research. Furthermore, the HSTP intends to build more leadership capacities in Nunavut's heritage sector by adding a mentorship

Parks Canada in Schools

A new teaching resource, designed for Nunavut students, was launched at the March 2010 Qikiqtani Teachers' Conference in Iqaluit. The Environmental Stewardship Certificate Program introduces to students the concept of environmental stewardship and the role of Parks Canada. The module not only teaches the concepts but also encourages students to make changes in their own lives. Students who make a commitment and act upon their commitment will receive a Parks Canada certificate and will be considered environmental stewards. This program is designed for grade 7 to 9 students in Nunavut and is to be delivered by classroom teachers in conjunction with the Diversity and Earth Sciences modules produced by Nunavut's Department of Education. This program also incorporates Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, information about environmental issues such as Species at Risk and contaminated sites. Most of all, it is suited for Nunavummiut.

Leesee Papatsie and Kristy Frampton of the Nunavut Field Unit piloted the program with support from Elise Maltin (Yellowknife).



component to the project. Consequently, the HSTP not only addresses visitor and heritage center workers but also includes employees from government and non-government organizations that deal with culture preservation, promotion, parks, heritage and tourism.

A central pillar of the HSTP is the Nunavut Heritage Training Institute (NHTI) – a workshop-like event where heritage workers gather once a year in a Nunavut community or a southern gateway city offering opportunities to visit heritage interpretation sites and facilities, exchange experiences from the North with southern heritage workers, and learn new developments in the fields of heritage conservation and presentation. Already in its third season, the NHTI averages 15 participants each year, proving the need for the project and its extraordinary success. The leadership-building component is showing its first fruits as five trainees from the previous Institute taught the March 2010 session. To accomplish this, the five trainees were mentored via regular email and phone contact with consultants.

Inuit Heritage Trust is determined to continue running the HSTP with both the NHTI and the mentorship component in the upcoming years. The HSTP is funded, in part, by generous contributions from the Department of Canadian Heritage, several Government of Nunavut departments, and other Inuit organizations such as Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. and Regional Inuit Associations.

Government of Nunavut – Department of Environment – *Nunavut Parks and Special Places*

Program Development and Planning

The Department of Environment (DoE) - Nunavut Parks and Special Places Division continues to make progress in redefining its core tools, including the advancement of a new Nunavut Parks and Special Places Program, development of new frameworks for Park Management Plans, Master Plans and Inventories of Park Resources, revision of the *Territorial Parks Act* and Regulations to reflect the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA)*, and review of the Territorial Parks System Plan.

In keeping with the Umbrella Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement (IIBA) for Territorial Parks, the Government of Nunavut (represented by DoE) remains committed to working with Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. and each of the three Regional Inuit Associations in the joint planning, management and establishment of impact and benefit measures related to protected areas in Nunavut. The parties continue to focus on implementing the IIBA and negotiating funding of the IIBA's 17 Articles with the federal government.

Heritage Appreciation Strategy Framework Initiated

In keeping with the Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement for Territorial Parks, the Government of Nunavut is required to offer training programs, educational programs and communication events for the public as they relate to Nunavut Parks. The Department of Environment – Nunavut Parks and Special Places Division has undertaken the development of a Heritage Appreciation Strategy Framework to guide proponents in undertaking heritage appreciation in the territory. The framework will outline timelines and tools for target audiences, and recommend procedures and methodologies to be followed.

The heritage appreciation strategy framework is still in the beginning stages of development and is anticipated to be complete in 2010.

Territorial Park Feasibility Studies and Related Projects

Based on previous attraction development projects initiated in 2001, and existing Land Use and Community and Economic Development Plans, the Department of Environment – Nunavut Parks and Special Places Division continues to work in Kugaaruk and in the Clyde River area on park feasibility studies, and at Fossil Creek in Coral Harbour. Potential new areas for feasibility work and community consultation may include Sanikiluaq, Axel Heiberg Island, Arviat, additional sites on King William Island and the Back River in the Qikiqtaaluk Region.

Clyde River Feasibility Study

Since 2001, the Department of Environment has been actively working with the community of Clyde River and the Qikiqtani Inuit Association to develop a territorial park in the region. A core advisory committee including

key community representatives from the Clyde River Hunters and Trappers Organization, Hamlet Council, Community Lands and Resources Committee, Elders Council and Youth Council has led this process.

Clyde River sits in the midst of a spectacular fiord landscape, on the east coast of Baffin Island, Nunavut. Each fiord has its own unique sculpted rock walls with dramatic formations, like the monumental cliffs at the junction of Sam Ford Fiord and Walker Arm or the high vertical cliffs of the meandering China wall. The area around Clyde River includes open-ocean, deep inlets, icebergs, sheer mountain walls, glaciers, rivers, valleys and tundra. Wildlife includes polar bears, seals, narwhal, bowhead whales, caribou, hare, arctic fox and numerous species of birds. The rolling hills of the Barnes Plateau, found at the end of the fiords, continue to be important caribou hunting grounds.

Coral Harbour - Fossil Creek Trail/Alijivik

The Department of Environment (DoE) – Nunavut Parks and Special Places Division, together with the community of Coral Harbour worked to identify the historic site of Alijivik as the preferred location for a territorial park in 2004/05. Alijivik is located on Inuit Owned Lands (IOL), which are managed by the Kivalliq Inuit Association (KIA) and, as such, will require agreements between DoE and the KIA, and the Hamlet and the KIA for the development of a Territorial Park on IOL. Until these agreements are in place, DoE will not be able to advance the Alijivik proposal.

In the interim, DoE has worked with the community to develop an interpretive trail program at Fossil Creek, which is renowned for its high concentration of exposed fossils. Installation of new signs should be completed in 2010.

Kugaaruk Territorial Park Feasibility Study

The Department of Environment – Nunavut Parks and Special Places Division and the community of Kugaaruk continued to make progress in 2009/10. As part of the 2008/09 larger Cultural Landscape Resource Inventory (CLRI) project, Nunavut Parks and the community of Kugaaruk initiated a preliminary CLRI to further refine a proposed park study area and hone the framework already in development. The CLRI Final Report and recommended proposed Kugaaruk Territorial Park study area were completed in 2009. Community approval and "next steps" are set for the spring 2010.

The park feasibility and preliminary cultural landscape resource planning studies have been completed and ministerial direction will be sought in 2010 on whether to proceed with the next phases of the planning and establishment process.

© Government of Nunavut, 2008

The Great Fossil Hunt: Paeolontologists have identified more than 40 different fossil species along Fossil Creek Trail, and over 140 species from rocks of similar age on Southampton Island.

Existing Territorial Parks

Iqalugaarjuup Nunanga Territorial Park

Just inland from the west coast of Hudson Bay, about eight kilometres northwest of the community of Rankin Inlet, lies Iqalugaarjuup Nunanga ("the land around the river of little fishes") Territorial Park. The most outstanding feature is the historic site Qamaviniqtalik ("place of ancient sod houses") and its interpretive walking trail located on the flood plains of the Meliadine River. Numerous archaeological features at Qamaviniqtalik are representative of

© Government of Nunavut, 2009

One small piece of the larger CLRI project outside of Kugaaruk.

the transition from the Thule culture to the historic Caribou Inuit culture.

Park development has been ongoing since the summer of 2003. In 2010, the Department of Environment – Nunavut Parks and Special Places Division will continue to develop and define hiking/interpretive trails and better delineate roadways to reduce impacts to the archaeological site and other park features, including maintenance of the sod hut that was constructed by Rankin Inlet Elders. A new site plan for Sandy Lake has been developed for implementation in 2010. Work on the preliminary plan for a new pavilion facility will continue in 2010.

© Government of Nunavut, 2009

Completed commemorative Amundsen Cairn located on the Northwest Passage Territorial Trail.

Gjoa Haven - Northwest Passage Trail

In 1993/94, Northwest Passage Territorial Trail was developed to showcase the search for the Northwest Passage and to increase the tourism potential of Gjoa Haven. The trail is a self-guided interpretive trail with interpretive stops at points of historical interest throughout the community, telling the story of the many failed expeditions and the one successful attempt of Roald Amundsen through the Northwest Passage.

In 2009, the Amundsen Cairn was officially completed and the installations of a number of site amenities are planned for 2010.

Katannilik Territorial Park

Katannilik ("the place of waterfalls"), in south Baffin near Kimmirut, is an area of approximately 1,270 km^2, almost all within the Soper River watershed – a Canadian Heritage River. The park provides opportunities for water-based recreation including rafting, canoeing and kayaking, as well as hiking, cross-country skiing, dog sledding and snowmobiling. The community, with assistance from park staff, has organized cultural events for visitors to the park and the increasing number of cruise ships visiting Kimmirut. Summer visitor use alone has resulted in increasing economic impacts in Kimmirut for arts and crafts, home-stay programs, and community events. The Soper House, the home of the 1930s explorer and biologist Dewey Soper, now serves as the Soper House Gallery where soapstone carvings, jewellery made from local stone, and handicrafts are for sale through the Quliruakut Society.

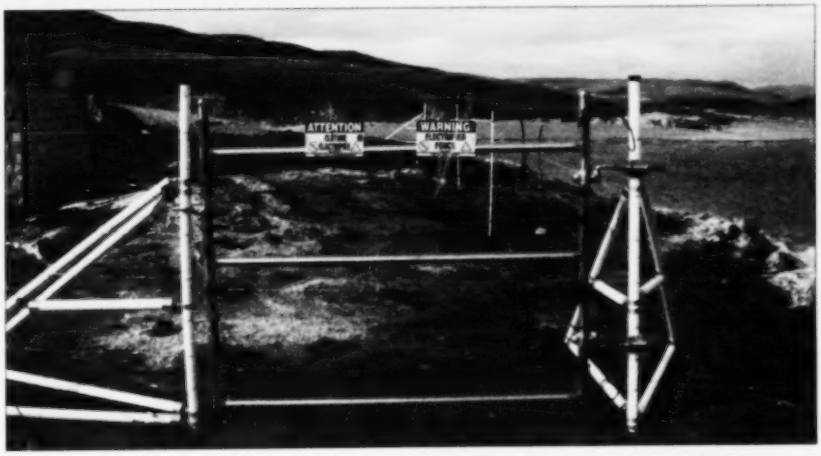
In 2009, Katannilik Park staff continued to host annual summer science camps in the park for local students, with funding support from the Kakivak Association. Students learn about wildlife and plant ecology, traditional use of rocks and minerals, navigation using rocks/stars, and safe boating skills on a river. Bear deterrent fencing was installed at the Soper campground and a fence is planned for the Livingstone River site for 2010. Other planned projects for 2010 include a new comfort station and guide maps for the summer visitor season.

Kugluk Territorial Park/ Coppermine River

Kugluk (Bloody Falls) Territorial Park is located 15 km southwest of the community of Kugluktuk, around Bloody Falls on the lower Coppermine River. The Falls are the focal point of the park where the rock and cliffs force the river into a boiling, rushing torrent. Where the river widens above and below the Falls, the rugged tundra climbs up from the river to the surrounding hills and plateaus. Winter ice break-up and flooding of the land around the Falls results in lush tundra vegetation, including an impressive show of wildflowers, in the summer months.

The Park contains remnants of Thule winter houses used more than 500 years ago, archaeological evidence of caribou hunting camps of more than 1,500 years ago, pre-Dorset use of the site more than 3,500 years ago and a rich history of Arctic exploration. Bloody Falls was declared a national historic site in 1978 because of its 4,000-year history of occupation, which includes perhaps the most famous battle of the north.

Because of its close proximity to Kugluktuk, local use of the area for camping and fishing is increasing, reflecting the traditional use of the site. The park is a convenient place to camp for canoeing and rafting parties descending the Coppermine River, and a newly constructed portage trail



© Government of Nunavut, 2009

Not your ordinary bear fence – fencing installed at the Soper campground site.

© Government of Nunavut, 2009

The weathered reconstructed steel skeletal structure of the Scottish Whaling Station was chosen to complement the barrel hoops, trypots and other artefacts located on the site.

provides an easy traverse around the rapids.

In 2010, updates to the existing park resource inventory, through archaeological site work and other means, will begin in an effort to apply the Cultural Landscape Resource Inventory framework and update park planning documents.

Kekerten Territorial Park

Kekerten Territorial Park, located 50 km from Pangnirtung within Cumberland Sound, was a highly used Scottish Whaling Station during the 1850s and 1860s. A number of artefacts remain, including the 1857 foundations of three storehouses, large cast-iron pots and restored tent frames and rings.

The Department of Environment – Nunavut Parks and Special Places Division and the community of Pangnirtung have been working on the recreation of the Scottish Whaling Station at Kekerten, increasing the interpretive potential of the site to include the relationship of Inuit with the whalers. In 2009, Nunavut Parks continued enhancing the whaling messaging through maintenance and upgrades to the Hudson Bay Company "Blubber Station", which houses interpretive messages, and two reconstructed whale boats from the era. The station and interpretive program will support local outfitters providing tours to the park, increasing cruise ship visitation, and student programs held in the Territorial Park. Restoration work is set to begin in 2010, including interpretive sign fabrication and installation.

Mallikjuaq Territorial Park

Mallikjuaq ("big wave") is an appropriate name for an island where rounded rock hills and low tundra valleys resemble giant rolling waves. Mallikjuaq Territorial Park, a 45-minute walk from Cape Dorset, showcases archaeological sites and stone structures dating back over three millennia.

Work for 2010 will include the design and fabrication of five new interpretive panels for the park and scheduled maintenance and facility upgrades to the visitor centre in the community.

Ovayok Territorial Park

Ovayok, or Mount Pelly, is the name used to describe the large esker that dominates the landscape within this territorial park located 15 km east of the community of Cambridge Bay. According to the local legend of Ovayok, the three esker mountains were once a family of giants who died of starvation while walking across Victoria Island in search of food. Visitors can explore the legend and the rich cultural history associated with Ovayok as they hike through the park, whether they choose a day trip or to camp for several days. The area is renowned for its diversity and numbers of Arctic birds, and many bird watchers from around the world are attracted by opportunities to add to their life lists.

Parking and trail and day-use facilities, as well as a new camping area, have been designed. In 2010, the Department of Environment – Nunavut Parks and Special Places Division will work with the local high school trades program to build a new comfort station. An additional comfort station and tent platforms will be constructed and installed in the park.

Sylvia Grinnell and Qaummaarviit Territorial Parks

Located one kilometre from the heart of Iqaluit, Sylvia Grinnell Territorial Park provides an opportunity for many visitors and residents to easily access an Arctic landscape. The park provides visitors with a chance to see a variety of Arctic plants, mammals and birds. Cultural heritage in the park area includes traditional fishing sites at the Sylvia Grinnell River rapids, stone cairns and Thule ruins. A recent recreation study in Iqaluit found demand and use of the park has made Sylvia Grinnell Park Iqaluit's number one recreation site.

The Department of Environment (DoE) – Nunavut Parks and Special Places Division continues to work with Indian and Northern Affairs Canada and the Department of National Defense toward the design and construction of a bridge across the Sylvia Grinnell River, which will link Sylvia Grinnell and Qaummaarviit Territorial Parks and provide visitors to Iqaluit with an accessible wilderness experience. The Rotary Club of Iqaluit and the Trans Canada Trail Foundation have also supported the bridge. The DoE – Nunavut Parks and Special Places Division remains committed to developing a new Park Management Plan and revisiting the Master Plan for the site.

For More Information

Additional information on the initiatives described in New Parks North can be obtained from the following offices:

National Parks, National Historic Sites and National Marine Conservation Areas

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NWT Territorial Parks and Canadian Heritage Rivers

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NWT Protected Areas Strategy

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All of the agencies listed here have contributed to this publication. Our goal is to provide a single, annual publication of interest to everyone following new northern natural and cultural heritage conservation issues in a convenient and economical medium. Your comments are welcome, addressed to the Editor at the National Parks, National Historic Sites and National Marine Conservations Areas address above.

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Mixed Sources